Solo Leveling
Side Stories 2
15
DISCIPLES
(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Story by
CHUGONG
Adapted by
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CHARACTERS

Jinwoo Sung

Detective in the Violent Crimes Investigation Unit

Haein Cha

Jinwoo Sung's wife

Sooho Sung

Jinwoo Sung's son

CONTENTS

PART 4
5

PART 5
61

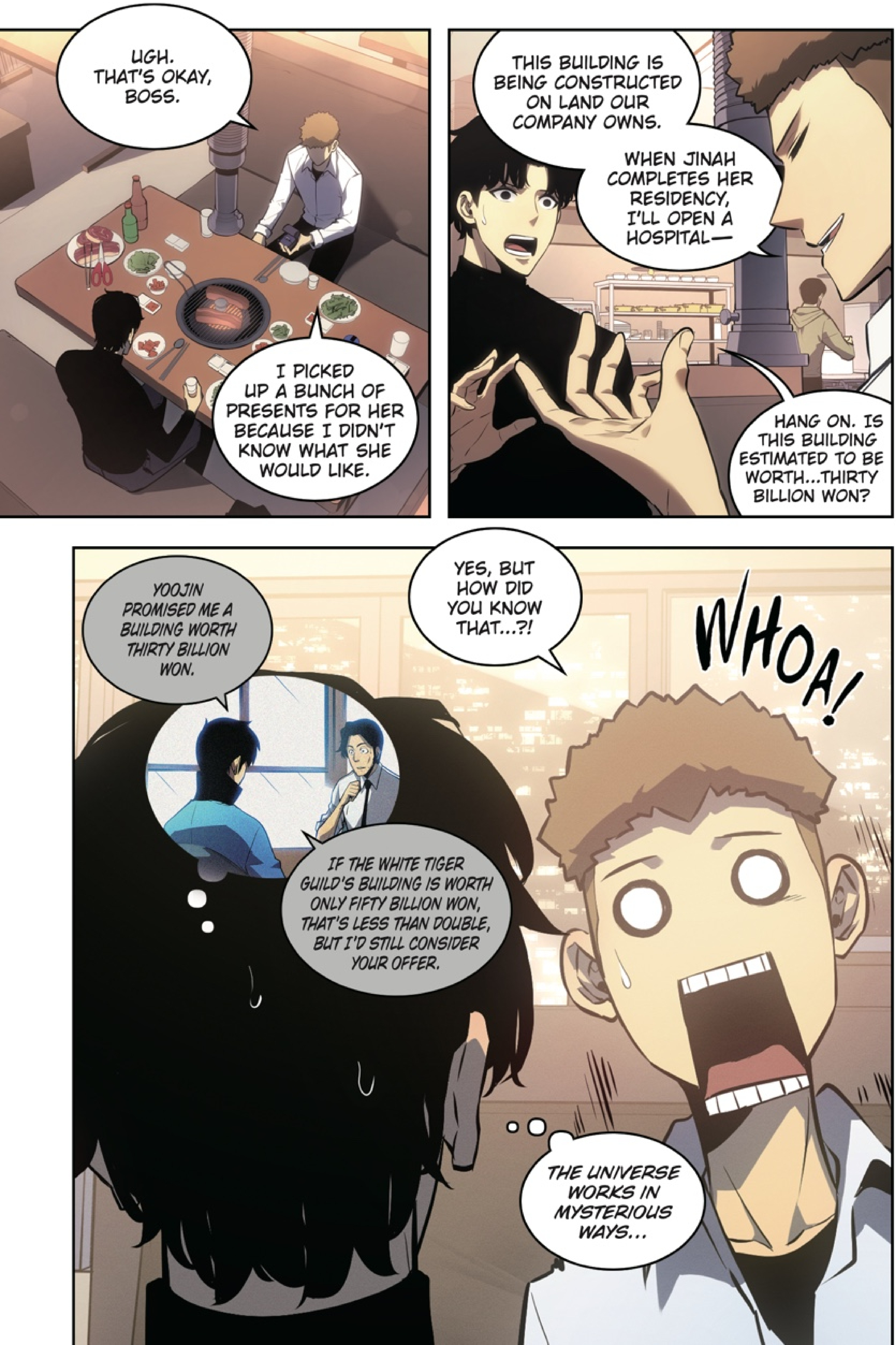
PART 6
143

Solo Leveling

Part 4

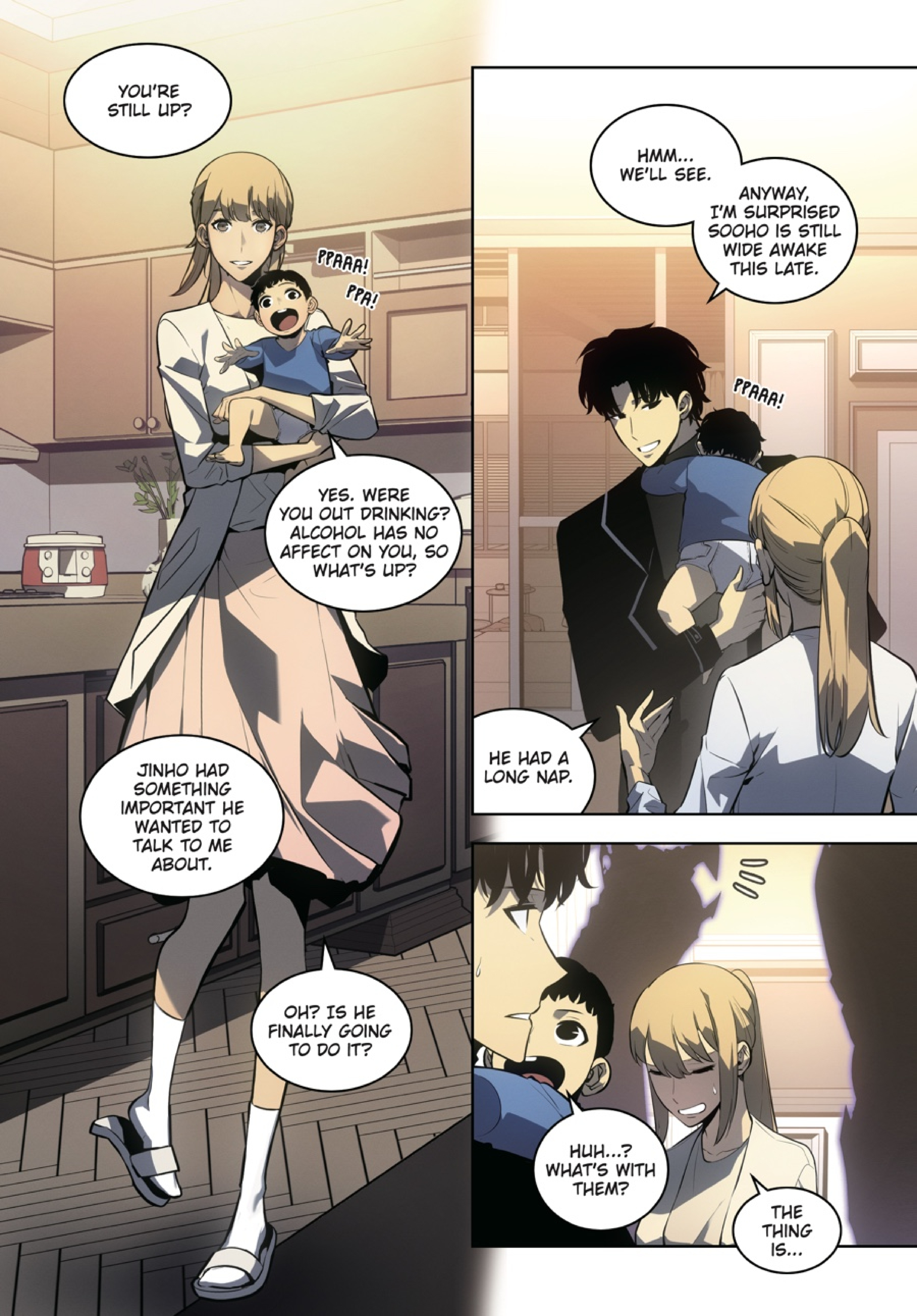
Solo Leveling

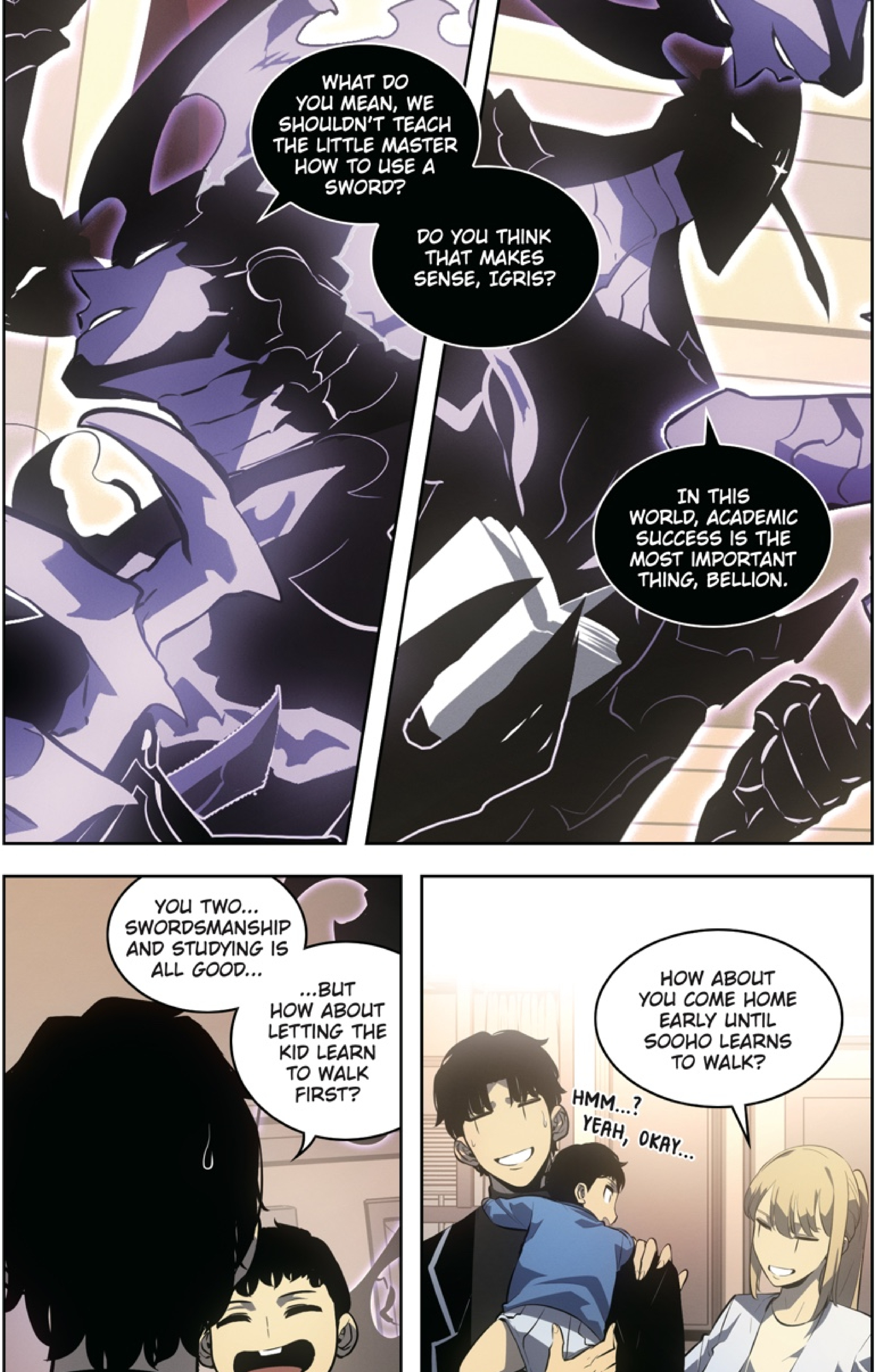
SENTIMENTAL MEATS
BOSS!
I'M GOING TO PROPOSE TO JINAH.
I'M COMPLETELY SERIOUS! I'M GOING TO ASK HER TONIGHT.
BUT... DO YOU THINK SHE'LL LIKE THIS RING?
I'M NOT SURE...I'M PRETTY BAD AT THIS KIND OF STUFF.


UGH. THAT'S OKAY, BOSS.
I PICKED UP A BUNCH OF PRESENTS FOR HER BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SHE WOULD LIKE.
THIS BUILDING IS BEING CONSTRUCTED ON LAND OUR COMPANY OWNS.
WHEN JINAH COMPLETES HER RESIDENCY, I'LL OPEN A HOSPITAL—
HANG ON. IS THIS BUILDING ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH...THIRTY BILLION WON?
YES, BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT...?!
WHOA!
YOOJIN PROMISED ME A BUILDING WORTH THIRTY BILLION WON.
IF THE WHITE TIGER GUILD'S BUILDING IS WORTH ONLY FIFTY BILLION WON, THAT'S LESS THAN DOUBLE, BUT I'D STILL CONSIDER YOUR OFFER.
THE UNIVERSE WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS...

YOU DON'T NEED TO SHOWER JINAH WITH PRESENTS AND TRY SO HARD.
YOU'RE A GREAT GUY. YOU JUST NEED TO BE YOUR TRUE SELF.
......
CAN I GIVE YOU A HUG, BOSS?
NO.
HUG
BOSS!

CLACK
I'M HOME.
PPA!
WELCOME BACK, HONEY.


YOU'RE STILL UP?
PPAAA!
PPA!
YES. WERE YOU OUT DRINKING? ALCOHOL HAS NO AFFECT ON YOU, SO WHAT'S UP?
JINHO HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT HE WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT.
OH? IS HE FINALLY GOING TO DO IT?
HMM... WE'LL SEE.
ANYWAY, I'M SURPRISED SOOHO IS STILL WIDE AWAKE THIS LATE.
PPAAA!
HE HAD A LONG NAP.
HUH...? WHAT'S WITH THEM?
THE THING IS...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WE SHOULDN'T TEACH THE LITTLE MASTER HOW TO USE A SWORD?
DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES SENSE, IGRIS?
IN THIS WORLD, ACADEMIC SUCCESS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, BELLION.
YOU TWO... SWORDSMANSHIP AND STUDYING IS ALL GOOD...
...BUT HOW ABOUT LETTING THE KID LEARN TO WALK FIRST?
HOW ABOUT YOU COME HOME EARLY UNTIL SOOHO LEARNS TO WALK?
HMM...? YEAH, OKAY...

THE POLICE ARE ALWAYS HERE TO SERVE YOU.
ENGAGE & COMMUNICATE
You can depend on us.
RELIABLE PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICE
CHIEF'S OFFICE
CLACK
YOU ASKED TO SEE ME?
I HEAR YOU'RE STILL POKING AROUND OTHER DETECTIVES' CASES...
I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO BE CAREFUL SO YOUR COLLEAGUES DON'T START TO RESENT YOU...

...HUNTER SUNG.
I'M NOT A HUNTER ANYMORE, SIR.
I'M STILL MORE COMFORTABLE CALLING YOU HUNTER SUNG.
DID YOU HEAR THAT THE ADOPTIVE FATHER OF THAT WOMAN WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE SUDDENLY WENT MISSING A FEW DAYS AGO?
REALLY? I HAD NO IDEA.
COINCIDENTLY, EVERY SURVEILLANCE CAMERA AROUND HIS HOUSE WAS MALFUNCTIONING.
OH MY, WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
I TRUST YOU COMPLETELY, HUNTER SUNG.
SLIDE
BUT THAT'S NOT ACTUALLY WHY I CALLED YOU IN HERE...

WHAT'S THIS?
...I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW.
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT—
OR RATHER, PRESIDENT GUNHEE GO...
...IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

SHF
TAP
TAP
PULL

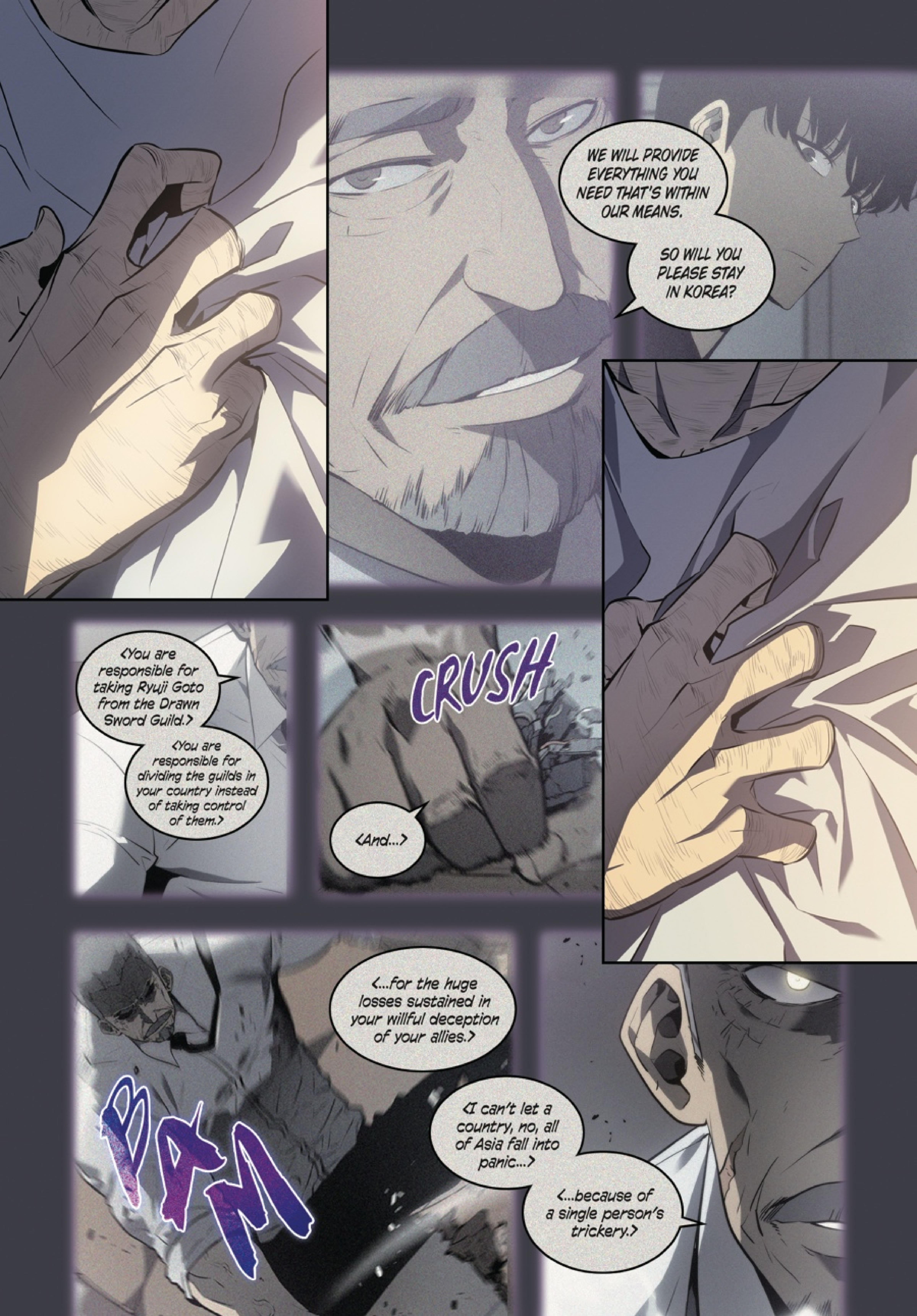
GOOD... TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
YOU CAME BACK, YOUNG MAN...
THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE SEARCHED FOR YOU...
...FOR A LONG TIME.
IF YOU WANT YOUR ILLNESS TO BE CURED—
I...HAVE LIVED LONG ENOUGH.
...I DID EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO DO IN THE TEN YEARS YOU GAVE ME.
...THAT'S... GOOD ENOUGH.
NO, I ACTUALLY HAVE...
...A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.

YOU SAID THERE WAS A WORLD IN WHICH...
...I FOUGHT ALONGSIDE YOU, YES?
BY ANY CHANCE...
WHIIIR
WHIR

HUFF!
HFF!
THAT OTHER WORLD—
COULD YOU SHOW IT TO ME?
...PLEASE LET ME SEE.
I WANT TO KNOW...
....WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE YOU AND I WERE...
......
THERE MIGHT BE THINGS YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO REMEMBER.
...THAT'S OKAY.
I...MERELY WANT THOSE FORGOTTEN MEMORIES BACK.

WH
OOM

HUNTER JINWOO SUNG?
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M GUNHEE GO.
I WANT TO FIGHT.
AN ISLAND MORE THAN 150 KILOMETERS FROM JEJU WAS ATTACKED.
IF AN ANT CAN FLY THERE, THEN THAT MEANS...
...NOT ONLY CAN IT REACH THE MAINLAND, BUT ALSO MOKPO.
SO ARE YOU PLANNING TO FORM A GUILD?
S-RANK HUNTERS DON'T NEED A GUILD MASTER'S LICENSE.
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS GIVE THE ASSOCIATION A CALL.
WAS HUNTER SUNG HERE?

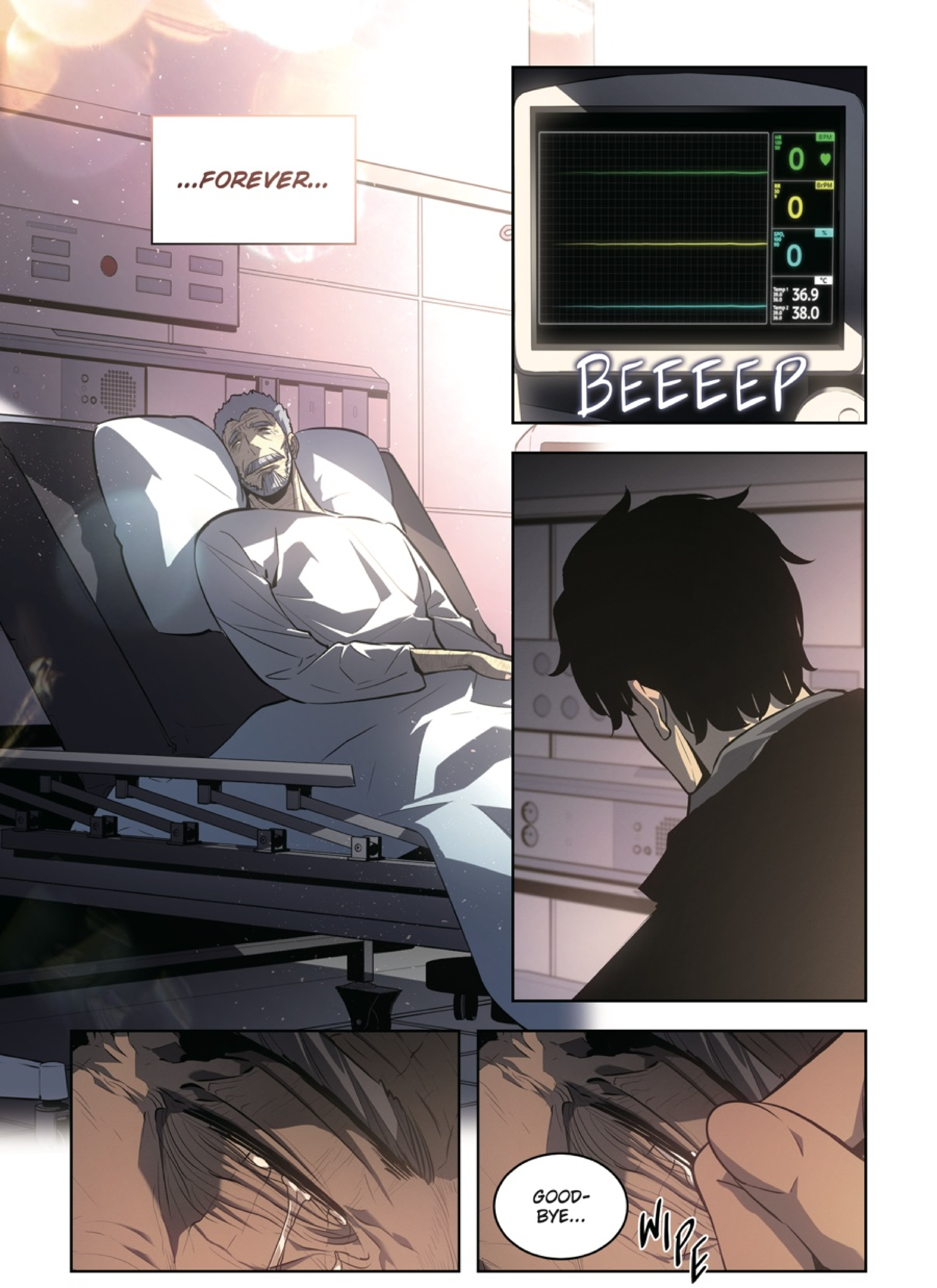

WE WILL PROVIDE EVERYTHING YOU NEED THAT'S WITHIN OUR MEANS.
SO WILL YOU PLEASE STAY IN KOREA?
<You are responsible for taking Ryuji Goto from the Drawn Sword Guild.>
<You are responsible for dividing the guilds in your country instead of taking control of them.>
CRUSH
<And...>
BAM
<...for the huge losses sustained in your willful deception of your allies.>
<I can't let a country, no, all of Asia fall into panic...>
<...because of a single person's trickery.>

THE BRIGHTEST FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY.
YOU'VE CONFINED THIS OFFICE BETWEEN DIMENSIONS. IMPRESSIVE.
WHOOSH
HUFF! HFF!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
WAIT, IF I USE THE ELIXIR OF LIFE...!
PAT
...THAT'S... ENOUGH.

PLEASE, HANG ON A LITTLE LONGER. I'LL BRING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
DON'T BOTHER...
HEALING MAGIC CAN'T REVERSE WHAT THE ATTACK DID.
I HAVE SEEN THE WILL OF THE GREAT EXISTENCE.
THEIR PLANS, THEIR— OUR ENEMIES...
...AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO...
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, PLEASE...
...PLEASE STAY ON THE SIDE OF HUMANS.

AHHH...
THAT WE'D MEET LIKE THIS...
...HUNTER SUNG...
I TRULY...
...TRULY WAS...
...WITH YOUNG HEROES LIKE YOU...
AHH...

EVEN IF I BECOME A COLD CORPSE...
...IN THIS WARM SUNSHINE...
...THE MEMORIES OF THIS GLORY WILL REMAIN...
SLIDE


...FOREVER...
BEEEEP
GOOD-BYE...
WIPE

YOU DEVOTED YOUR LIFE TO HELPING SO MANY OTHERS. YOU WERE UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO A HERO.

♪♬
HELLO?
Honey!
S-Sooho!
WHAT ABOUT SOOHO?
OUR SOOHO...!

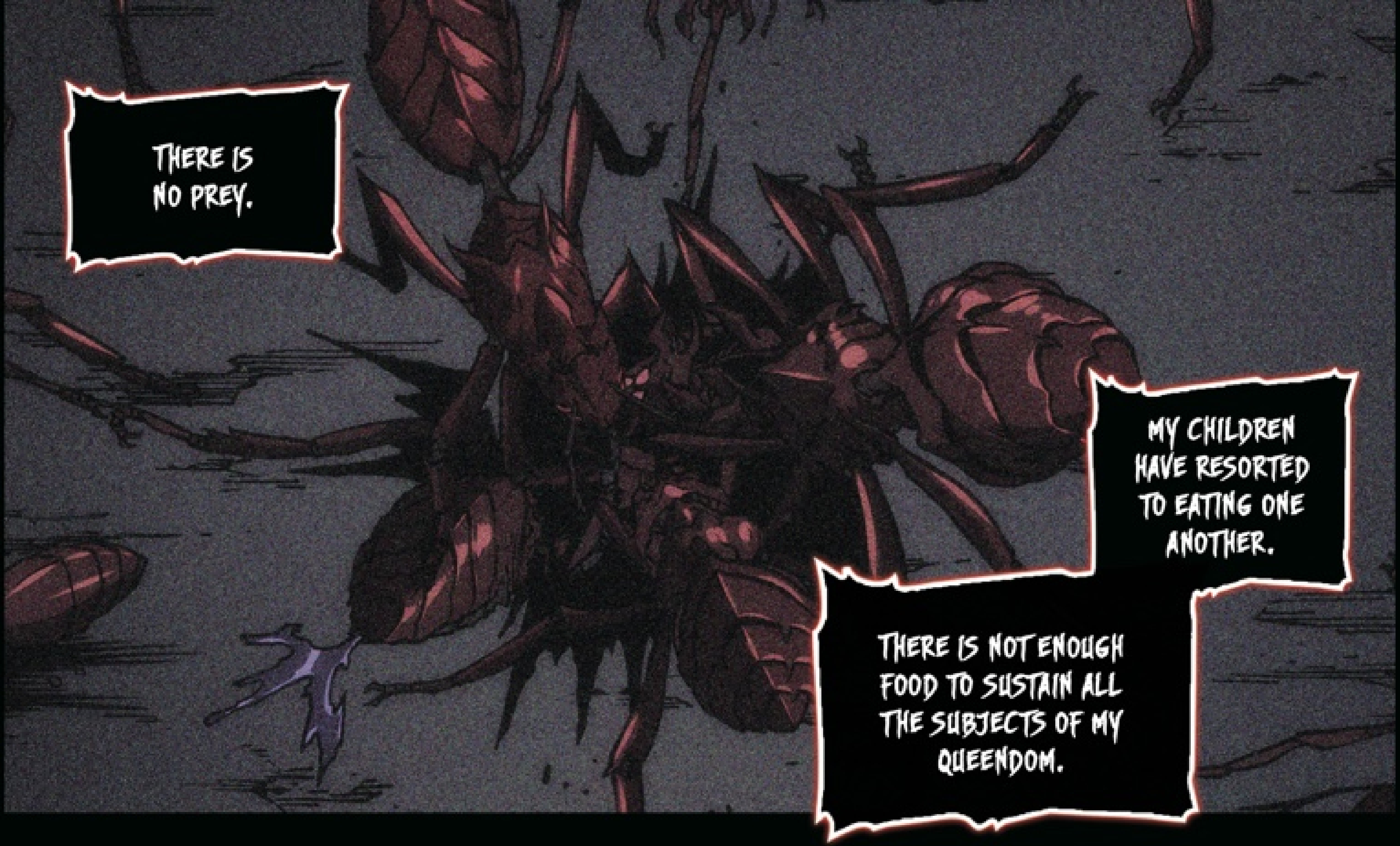
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
HE'S FLYING!

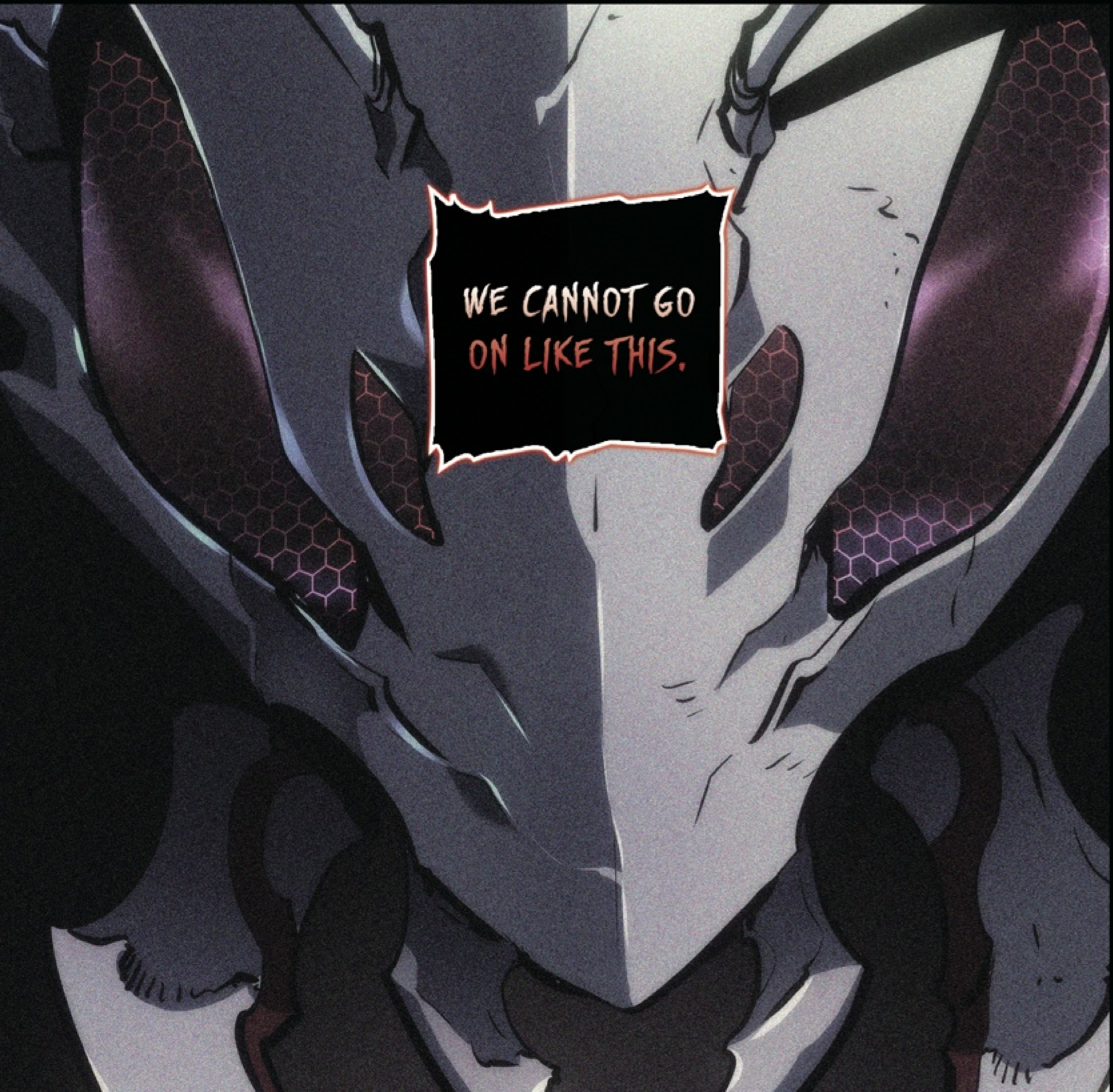
WHAT?
Sooho is flying around the house!

THAT'S WEIRD. I FEEL LIKE YOUR KID SHOULD HAVE STARTED RUNNING RIGHT OUT OF THE WOMB.
Wh-what should we do?

IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY.
Huh?
I'LL TEACH SOOHO HOW TO FLY PROPERLY.
CRUNCH
You... can fly too?
HAVE I NOT MENTIONED THAT?
AFTER THE FALL...
...COMES WINTER...
...THEN SPRING.
EVERYTHING HAS A BEGINNING AND AN END...
...AND A NEW BEGINNING COMES FROM EVERY END.
No, Sooho!
CLATTER
HON?

ALTHOUGH, IT SEEMS LIKE IT WON'T BE WINTER ANYTIME SOON FOR MY FAMILY.
...I'LL HEAD HOME EARLY TODAY.
SINCE THE LITTLE MASTER CAN FLY NOW, HE SHOULD PRACTICE FIGHTING IN THE AIR...
NO WAY! THIS IS A SIGN THAT HE WILL BE A PILOT!
PLEASE COME HOME SOON!


THERE IS NO PREY.
MY CHILDREN HAVE RESORTED TO EATING ONE ANOTHER.
THERE IS NOT ENOUGH FOOD TO SUSTAIN ALL THE SUBJECTS OF MY QUEENDOM.


WE CANNOT GO ON LIKE THIS.

MY SUBJECTS REQUIRE A MIGHTY SOLDIER TO LEAD THEM.
FOR MY QUEENDOM...
...ANY ENEMY WHO STANDS IN OUR WAY WILL TREMBLE IN FEAR.
ANY ENEMY WHO STANDS IN OUR WAY WILL TREMBLE IN FEAR.

I WAS BORN TO KILL EVERY LIVING CREATURE.
STEP
STEP
THE KING WAS NOT OUTSIDE.
IS THERE...
...ANOTHER HUMAN CALLED THE KING?
THEY ALL LOOKED AT ME WITH FEAR, BUT...
ARE YOU THE KING OF HUMANS?
STEP
STEP
...SO THE BUG CAN TALK.

...THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME...

...I MET SOMEONE WHO WAS NOT AFRAID OF ME.

I HAVEN'T MET ANYBODY ELSE...
...WHO IS NOT AFRAID OF ME—UNTIL NOW.
......
AN'!
AN'!
FWIP

AN'!
LEAP
AN'!
TMP
AN'!
...IT'S STRANGE.
WHY DOES THE LITTLE MASTER KEEP LOOKING FOR ME?
WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?
......?
A BIPEDAL ANT WHO IS BIGGER THAN A HUMAN AND CAN FLY AND EVEN TALK.
WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE FOR A TODDLER?
......
THE LITTLE MASTER LIKES ME BECAUSE I AM BIGGER THAN A HUMAN AND CAN FLY AND TALK?
SCRATCH

THERE YOU ARE, MARSHAL.
VWOOM
I WANT TO CHANGE THE PLAN A LITTLE BIT.
PARDON ME?
BUT THE STATUE OF THE MONARCH TO CELEBRATE HIS THIRTY-SECOND BIRTHDAY HAS BEEN UNDER WAY FOR MONTHS NOW—
NO, NO, I'M NOT CANCELING THAT.
I JUST WANT TO CHANGE ONE PART HERE...
AH, YES, THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY POSSIBLE.
I THINK THE RESULT WILL BE EVEN BETTER, MARSHAL BERU.
BUT WE WILL NEED A LARGER WORKFORCE.
MAY I USE THE DEMONS IN THE DEMON KING'S CASTLE BUILT BY THE ARCHITECT?
?
HEE-HEE! SURE. I'LL BE BACK AFTER I TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS.

ARE WE REALLY DOING THIS, BOSS?

C'MON... YOU BACKING OUT?
N-NO, BOSS.

OUR ORGANIZATION IS GONE BECAUSE OF ONE MAN—JINWOO SUNG.
IT'S TIME FOR SOME PAYBACK. AN EYE FOR AN EYE, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT, BOSS.

YOU'RE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HIS WIFE AND KID WERE KILLED BY BURGLARS.
GOT IT?
YES, BOSS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE A HOUSE THIS BIG HAS NO SECURITY SYSTEM.
IT'S PRACTICALLY AN OPEN INVITATION.
KEEP COOL AND DON'T SCREW UP.
TMP
TMP

HUH...? WHY IS IT ONLY YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER TWO GUYS?
UM...UH... I DON'T KNOW.
THOSE IDIOTS...!
DID THEY GET SCARED AND RUN AWA—
WHOOSH

SHHH...

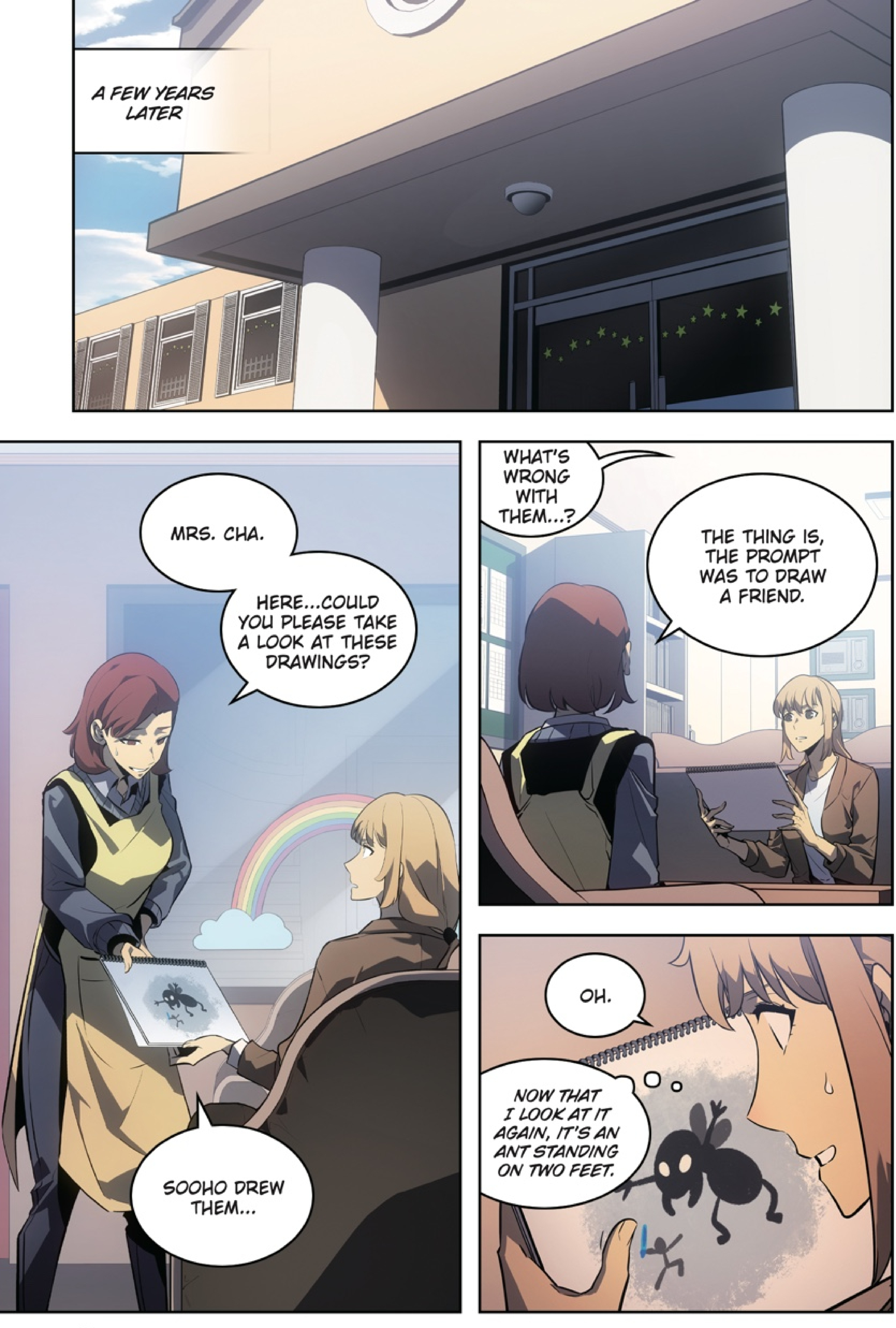
FLAIL
FLAIL
THE LITTLE MASTER HAS JUST FALLEN ASLEEP.
MMPH ...!
MM, MMPH!

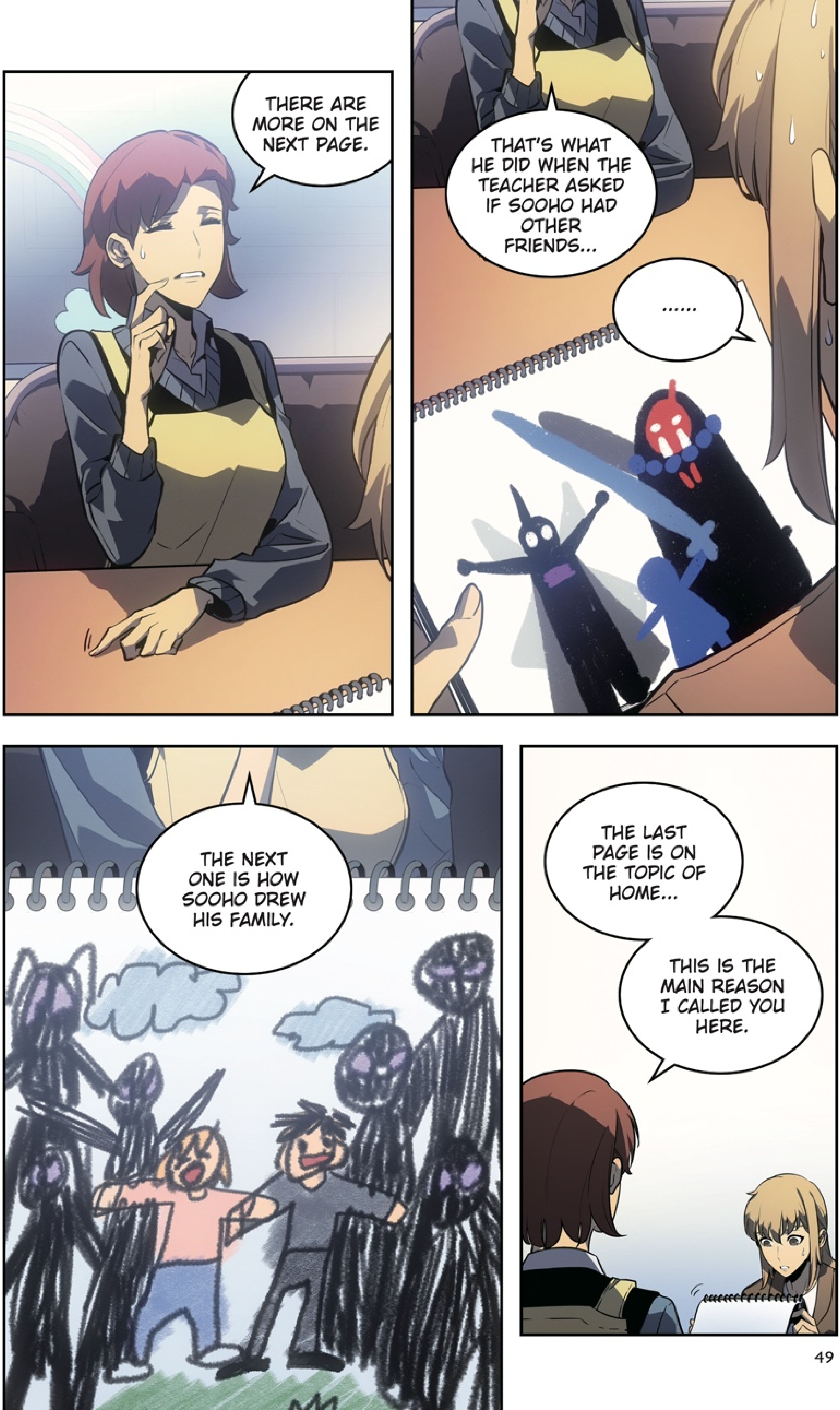
HIS NAP IS NOT TO BE DISTURBED BY PESKY, UNINVITED GUESTS.
FLAIL

A FAMILIAR LOOK AND A FAMILIAR FEELING...
AS MUCH AS I APPRECIATE MY LIEGE'S TRUST AND THE LITTLE MASTER'S AFFECTIONS...
...I CAN'T DENY THAT I ENJOY THIS.
PREY ALWAYS HAS THE SAME EXPRESSION IN THE PRESENCE OF A PREDATOR.
HEH-HEH!

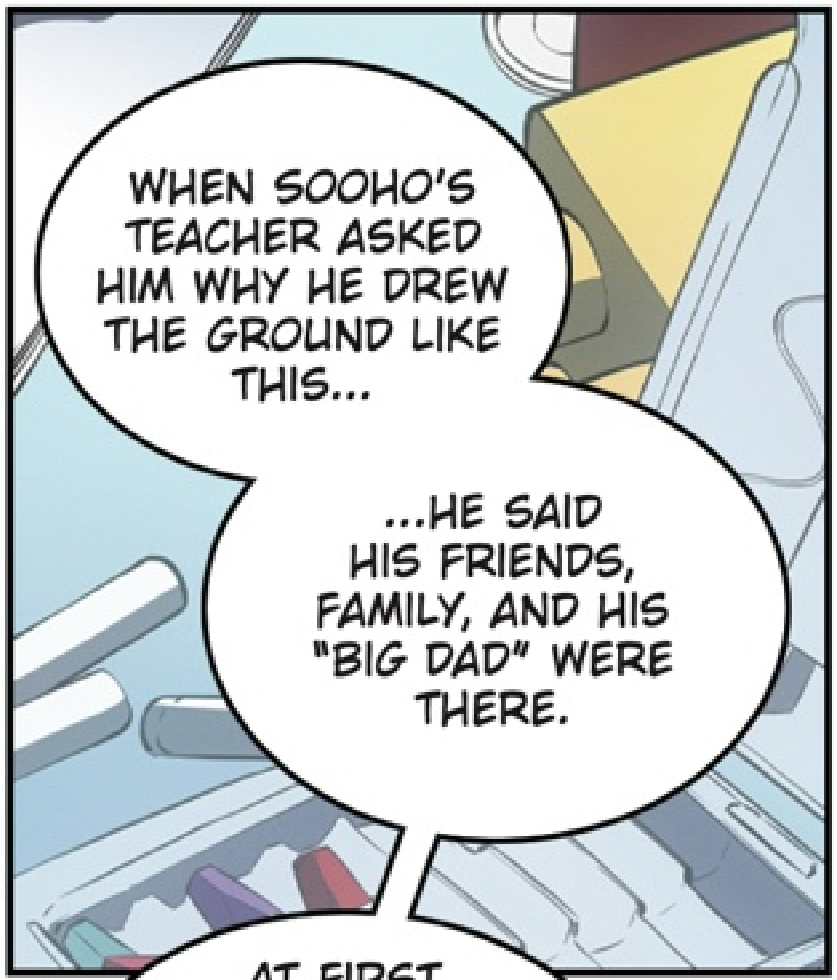
I AM SURE OUR KING WILL BE ELATED AT THE SIGHT OF THIS GRAND AND BEAUTIFUL STATUE!!
YEAAAH!
KEE-HEH-HEH-HEH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? I MADE CHANGES AS YOU REQUESTED.
WHOO!
HEE-HEE-HEE! EXCELLENT!

AND IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A SIGNIFICANT GIFT TO PRESENT TO THE LITTLE MASTER...
...SHOULD HE VISIT THIS PLACE IN THE FUTURE.
KEE-HEE-HEH-HEH!
YAAAH!
......?
AN'!
SKRAH!
AN'!


A FEW YEARS LATER
MRS. CHA.
HERE...COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THESE DRAWINGS?
SOOHO DREW THEM...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM...?
THE THING IS, THE PROMPT WAS TO DRAW A FRIEND.
OH.
NOW THAT I LOOK AT IT AGAIN, IT'S AN ANT STANDING ON TWO FEET.

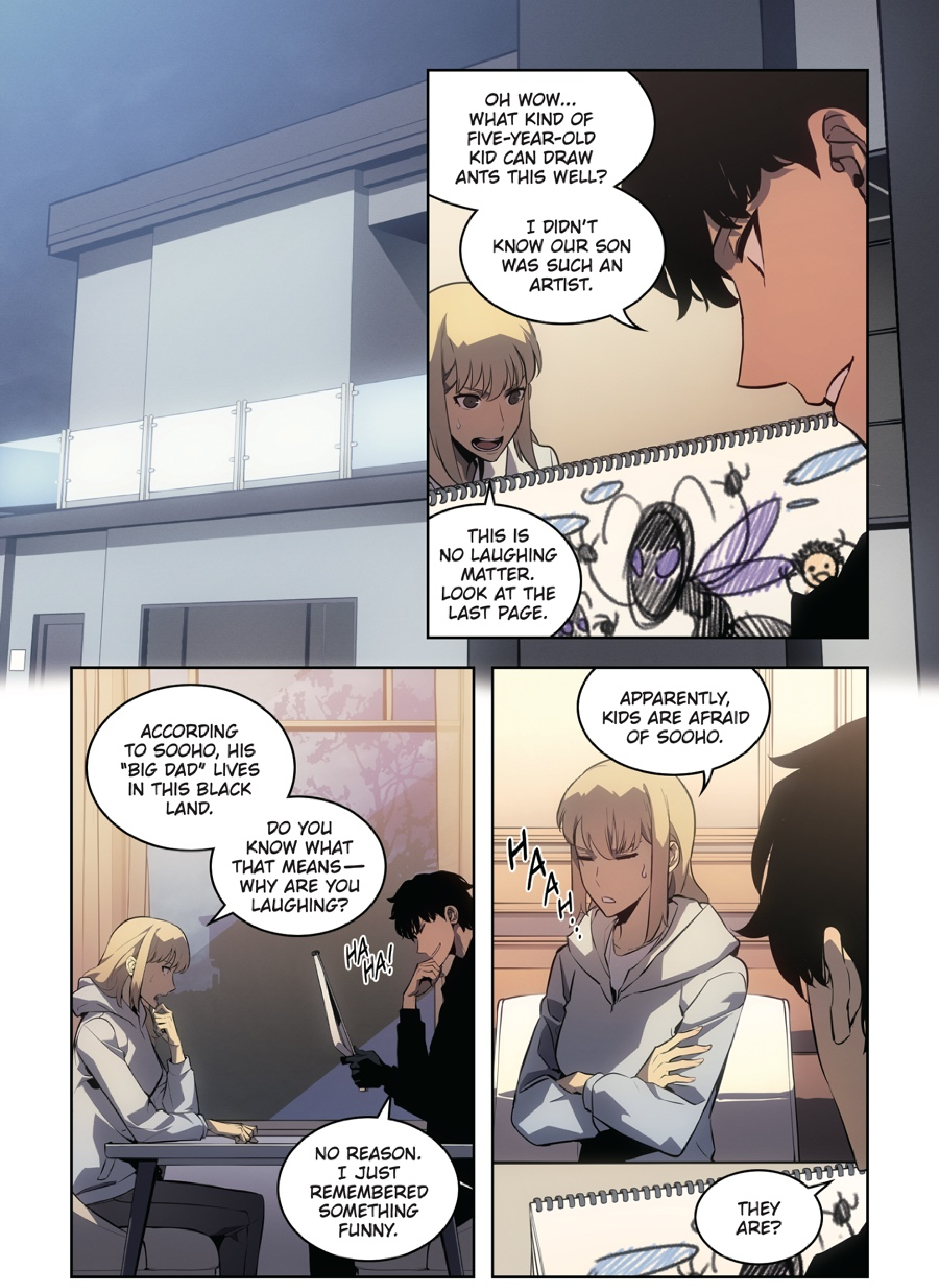

THERE ARE MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE.
THAT'S WHAT HE DID WHEN THE TEACHER ASKED IF SOOHO HAD OTHER FRIENDS...
......
THE NEXT ONE IS HOW SOOHO DREW HIS FAMILY.
THE LAST PAGE IS ON THE TOPIC OF HOME...
THIS IS THE MAIN REASON I CALLED YOU HERE.

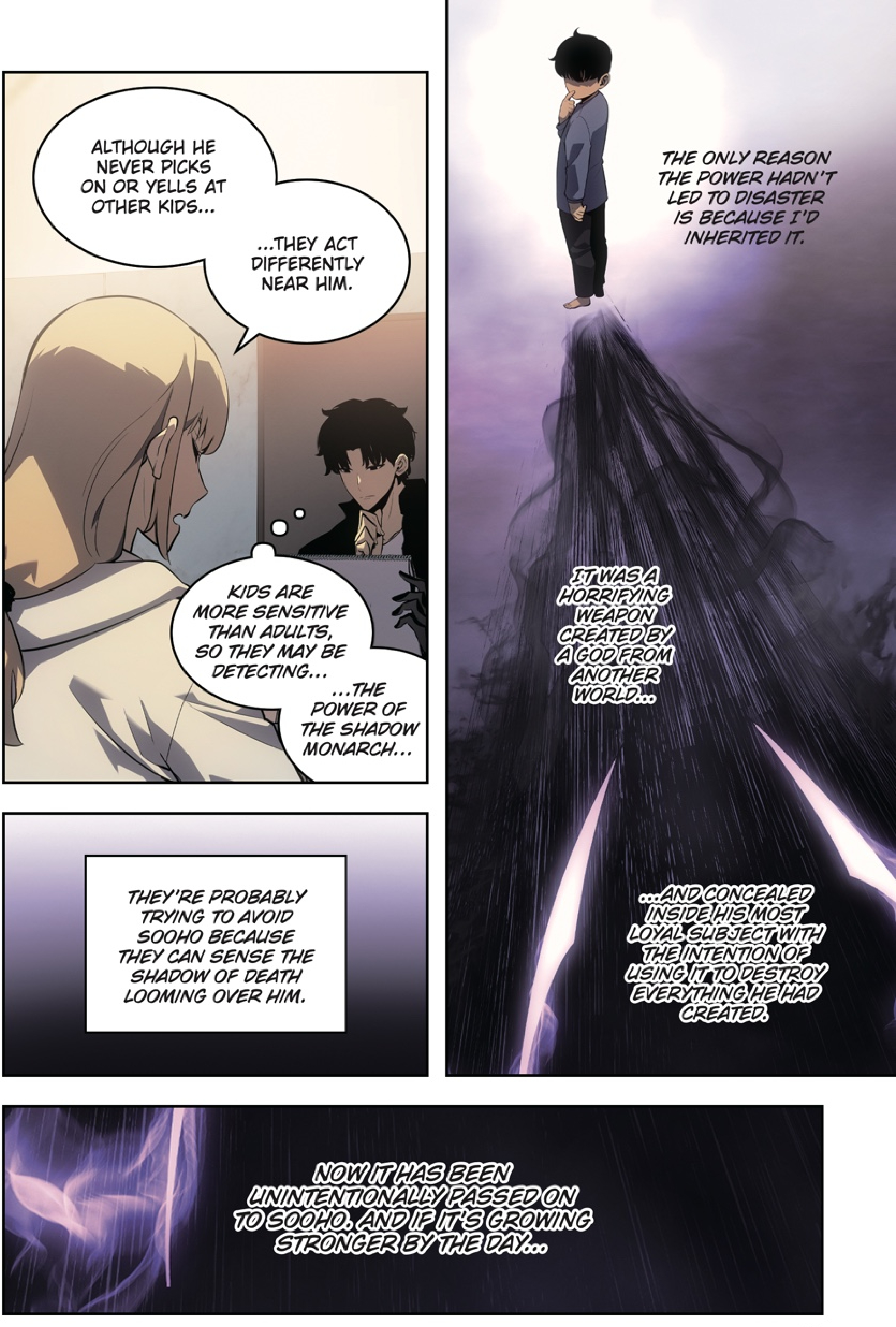
WE'VE LOOKED AFTER MANY CHILDREN, BUT WE HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY CHILD DEPICT THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY LIKE THIS.


WHEN SOOHO'S TEACHER ASKED HIM WHY HE DREW THE GROUND LIKE THIS...
...HE SAID HIS FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND HIS "BIG DAD" WERE THERE.

AT FIRST, WE SUSPECTED THAT SOOHO MIGHT BE ABUSED AT HOME, BUT WE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF THAT AS SOOHO IS ALWAYS SO HAPPY...
MAYBE SOOHO HAS A SPECIAL TALENT FOR ART?
OH...YES...

CONGRATU-LATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION!
SO... WHAT MADE YOU FINALLY ACCEPT THE POSITION?
YOU'VE BEEN REFUSING THE HIGHER-UPS EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN BUGGING YOU FOR AGES.
CONGRATS!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE BUYING US A ROUND, CAPTAIN SUNG?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MORE REASONS TO REFUSE.
WOW, YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE, CAPTAIN.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR AMBITIONS?
LIKE CLIMBING THE LADDER OR MAKING MORE MONEY?
WOULD SEHWAN BELIEVE THAT AT ONE POINT I MADE MORE MONEY THAN THE LARGEST LAW FIRMS IN THE COUNTRY AT A YOUNGER AGE THAN HE IS NOW?
I'LL TREAT YOU GUYS TODAY. NO NEED TO BUTTER ME UP.
WE'RE NOT! SOOO, MIGHT I RECOMMEND A GRILLED OFFAL RESTAURANT?


OH WOW... WHAT KIND OF FIVE-YEAR-OLD KID CAN DRAW ANTS THIS WELL?
I DIDN'T KNOW OUR SON WAS SUCH AN ARTIST.
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER. LOOK AT THE LAST PAGE.
ACCORDING TO SOOHO, HIS "BIG DAD" LIVES IN THIS BLACK LAND.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS— WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
HA HA!
NO REASON. I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING FUNNY.
APPARENTLY, KIDS ARE AFRAID OF SOOHO.
HAAH...
THEY ARE?


ALTHOUGH HE NEVER PICKS ON OR YELLS AT OTHER KIDS...
...THEY ACT DIFFERENTLY NEAR HIM.
KIDS ARE MORE SENSITIVE THAN ADULTS, SO THEY MAY BE DETECTING...
...THE POWER OF THE SHADOW MONARCH...
THEY'RE PROBABLY TRYING TO AVOID SOOHO BECAUSE THEY CAN SENSE THE SHADOW OF DEATH LOOMING OVER HIM.
THE ONLY REASON THE POWER HADN'T LED TO DISASTER IS BECAUSE I'D INHERITED IT.
IT WAS A HORRIFYING WEAPON CREATED BY A GOD FROM ANOTHER WORLD...
...AND CONCEALED INSIDE HIS MOST LOYAL SUBJECT WITH THE INTENTION OF USING IT TO DESTROY EVERYTHING HE HAD CREATED.
NOW IT HAS BEEN UNINTENTIONALLY PASSED ON TO SOOHO. AND IF IT'S GROWING STRONGER BY THE DAY...

...SOOHO WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE.
UNTIL HE CAN COMPLETELY CONTROL HIS POWER, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SUPPRESS IT.
HONEY...?
UNTIL SOOHO CAN LIVE WITH OTHER HUMANS WITHOUT ANY ISSUE...
...I'M GOING TO SEAL HIS POWER AND HIS MEMORIES THAT CONCERN THE SHADOW SOLDIERS.

MY KING...
FSHHH
HERE. SOOHO DREW A PICTURE OF YOU.
MY KING...
...MAY I BID THE YOUNG MASTER FAREWELL?
DRIP
CREAK
GUSH
MY LITTLE LORD... I BID YOU FAREWELL ON BEHALF OF ALL THE SHADOW SOLDIERS.
BOSS ANT...
BOSS ANT...

IT WAS AN HONOR TO SERVE YOU, YOUNG MASTER.
PLEASE STAY IN GOOD HEALTH UNTIL NEXT WE MEET...
YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE STUDY HARD EVEN WHEN I'M NOT WITH YOU...
PLEASE BE HEALTHY, YOUNG MASTER.
HNGH... NNH... WAAAAAAH...

SWEET DREAMS...

SHWF

CLACK

CHIRP!
CHIRP!

Solo Leveling

Part 5

THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE APPLIES IN HIGH SCHOOLS.
A NEW CLASSROOM AND NEW CLASS-MATES...
YOU GUYS GOT IN TOO?
YEAH, WE HIT THE BOOKS FOR A BIT.
EUNCHUL LEE
FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL
HEY, SUNGHO. NICE SEEING YOU HERE.
YEAH.
ONE LOOK IS ENOUGH TO DETERMINE...

...WHO WILL BE FRIENDS...
...AND WHO'S BENEATH THEM.
HE'S A HOT-SHOT FROM THE DISTRICT NEXT TO MINE, BUT HE'S NOTHING MUCH.
STILL, WOULDN'T HURT TO KEEP HIM AROUND.
LET'S HAVE A GOOD THREE YEARS.
SHAKE
SURE.
THE HIERARCHY IN THIS CLASSROOM HAS BEEN DECIDED.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT GUY.

?
THE HELL?
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?
WHAT'S WRONG?
CLATTER
SOME ASSHOLE OVER THERE DOESN'T KNOW HIS PLACE.

WE WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. I'D LEAVE HIM BE IF I WERE YOU.
...HEY, SUNGHO CHO.
D'YOU HAVE SOME KINDA DEATH WISH?

LOOK AT YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU HAD A REPUTATION, BUT YOU'RE SO WEAK.
KEGH!
WHO THE HELL IS THAT ASSHOLE? WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT HIM?
H-HE...WAS THE STRONGEST GUY IN OUR SCHOOL.
HUFF! HUFF!

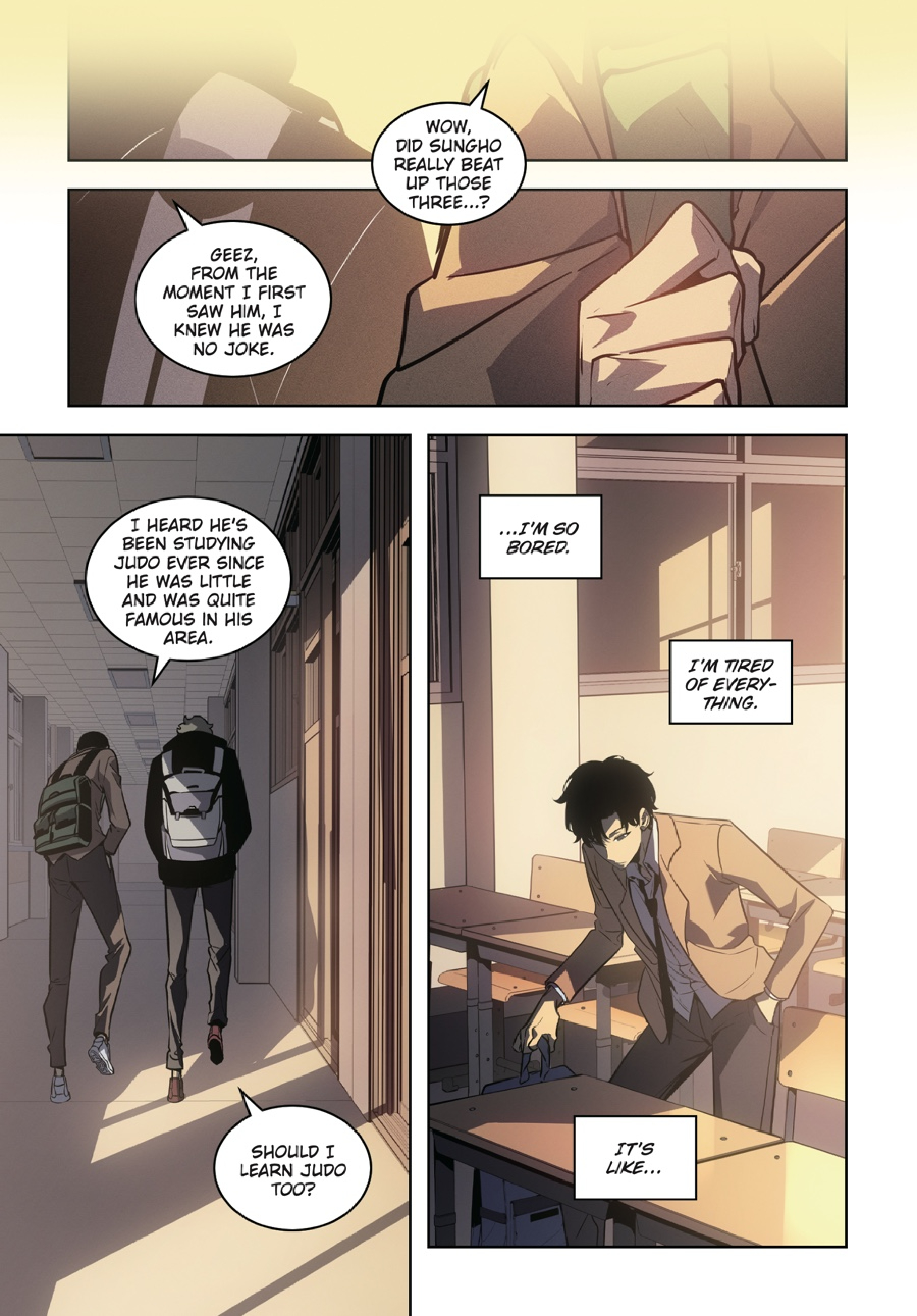
...?
...WE COULDN'T LAY A FINGER ON HIM.
SO...I STOPPED YOU BEFORE THINGS GOT OUTTA HAND.
HEY.
SMACK
SMACK
DUDE, C'MON.
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? IF THERE WAS A GUY LIKE THAT, I WOULD'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM ALREADY.
BAM
BAM
BAM
SUNGHO, YOU'LL CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY, OKAY?

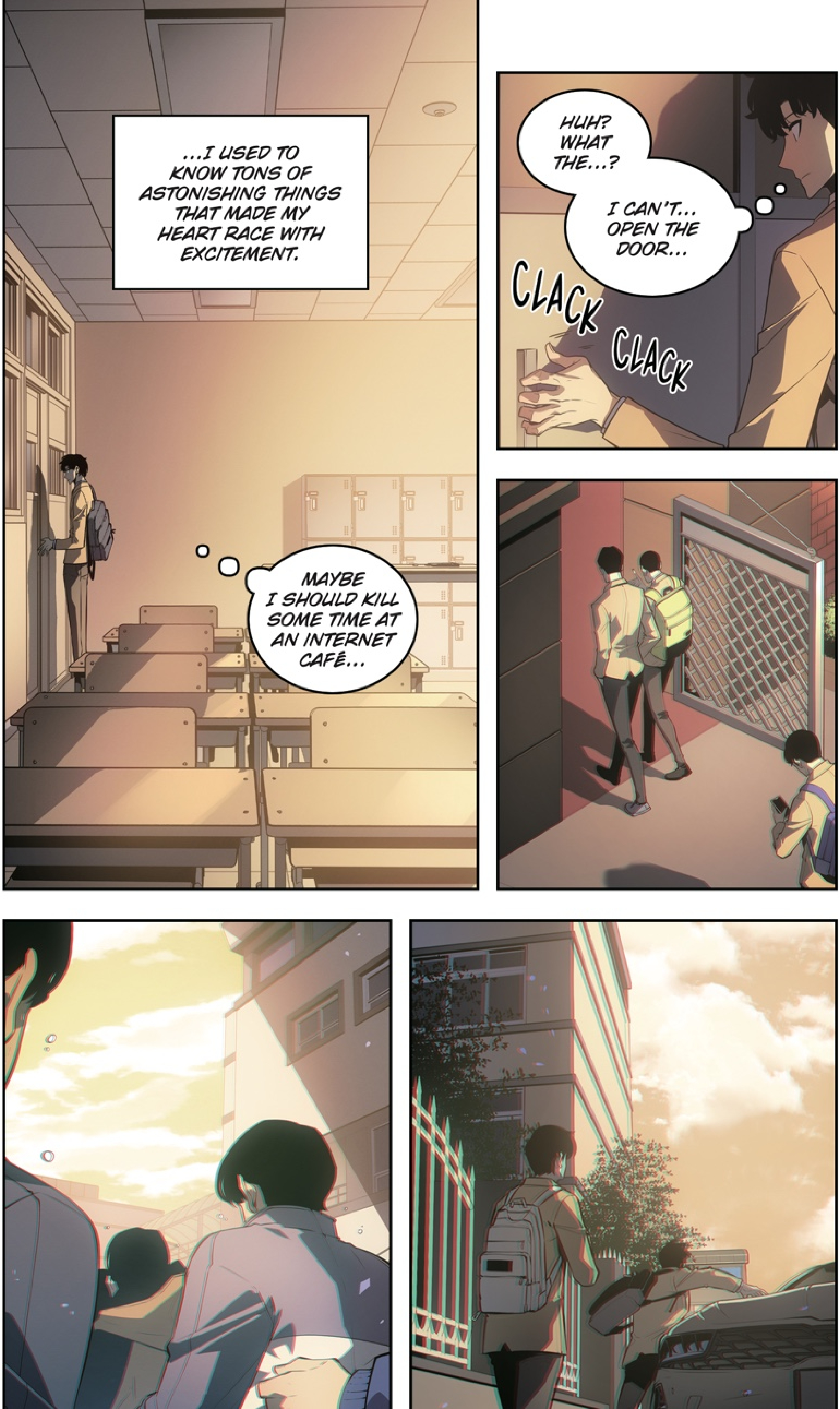
WITH INJURIES THAT BAD, YOU CAN ARGUE IT WAS IN SELF-DEFENSE.
...SURE.
"SELF-DEFENSE"?
THWACK

WHACK
THUD
WHOOSH

WHUD
SLAM

CRACK
THUD
CONSIDERING HOW THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT...LET'S WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS IN HIGH SCHOOL TOO, OKAY?
PAT
PAT
O-OKAY.
WELL... IT ISN'T A BAD DEAL FOR ME.


WOW, DID SUNGHO REALLY BEAT UP THOSE THREE...?
GEEZ, FROM THE MOMENT I FIRST SAW HIM, I KNEW HE WAS NO JOKE.
I HEARD HE'S BEEN STUDYING JUDO EVER SINCE HE WAS LITTLE AND WAS QUITE FAMOUS IN HIS AREA.
SHOULD I LEARN JUDO TOO?
...I'M SO BORED.
I'M TIRED OF EVERY-THING.
IT'S LIKE...


...I USED TO KNOW TONS OF ASTONISHING THINGS THAT MADE MY HEART RACE WITH EXCITEMENT.
MAYBE I SHOULD KILL SOME TIME AT AN INTERNET CAFÉ...
HUH? WHAT THE...?
I CAN'T... OPEN THE DOOR...
CLACK
CLACK

TIME STOPPED!
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE...?
WHOO-OOM

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
MOM DID ALWAYS SAY I'M JUST LIKE DAD.
IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS...
...WHAT WOULD DAD DO?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

ZZZZT

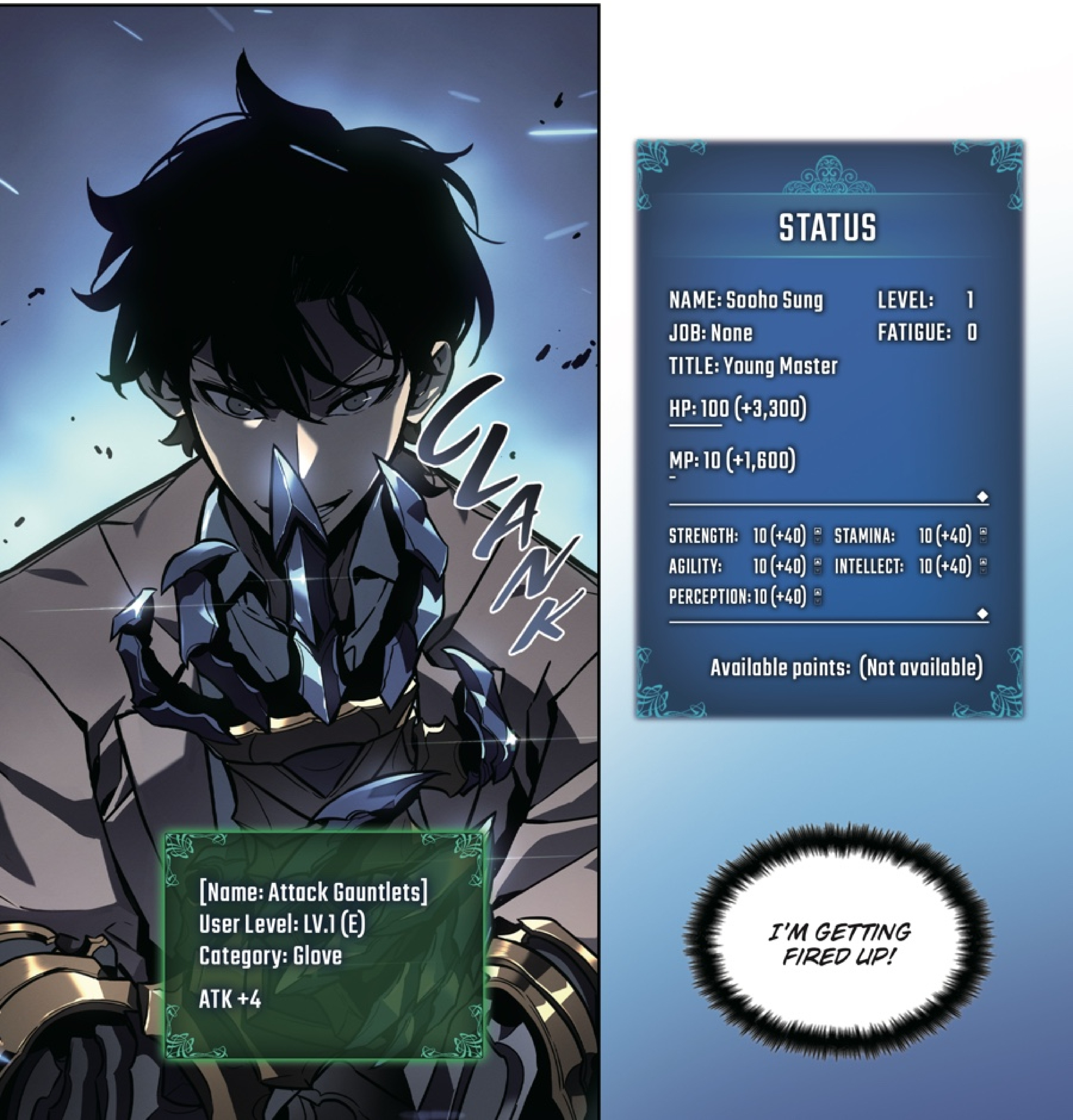
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
WHOOSH
SHP
...THERE'S NO WAY BACK...
...SO THE ONLY PATH LEFT IS FORWARD.
CLACK
WHOA...

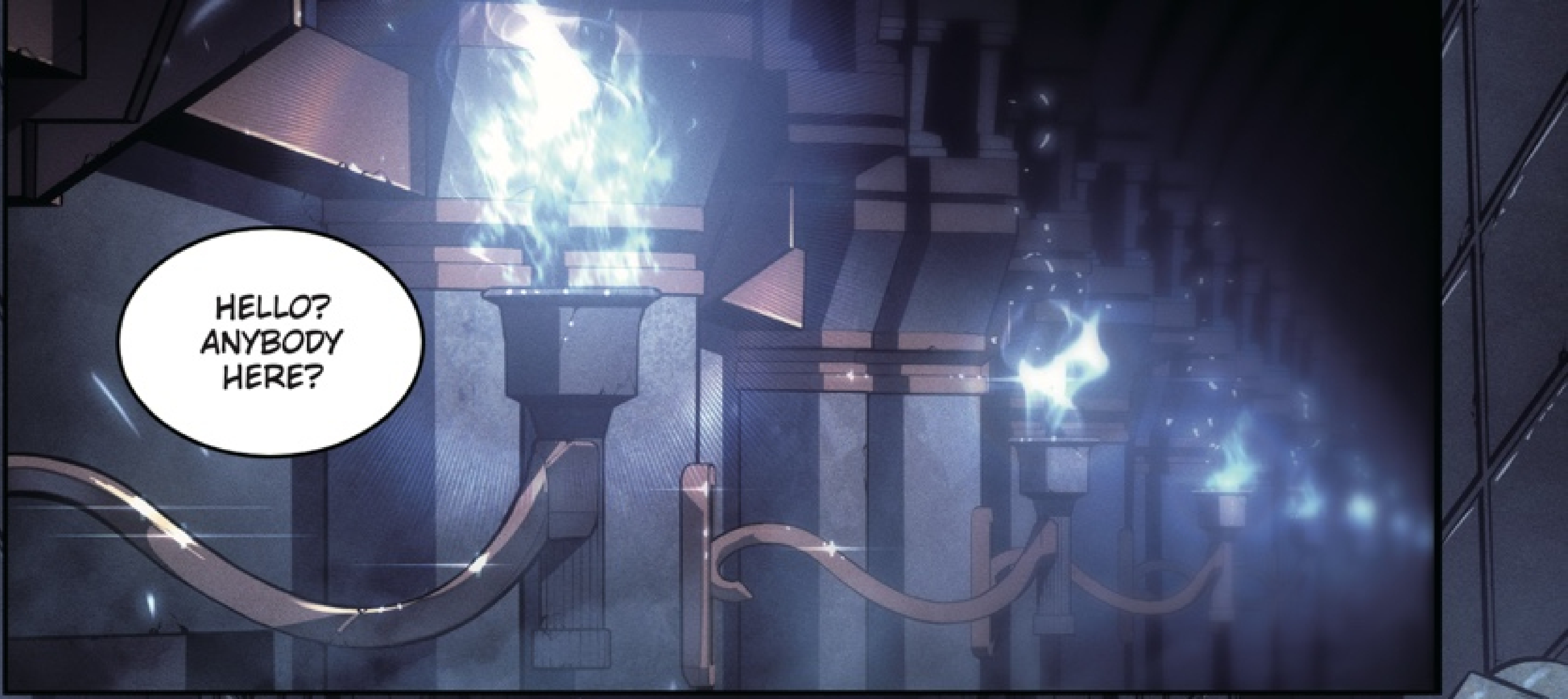
PING!
[Name: Lightning Halberd]
User Level: LV.20 (B-)
Category: Ax
ATK +160
Effect: Lightning buff will be given when consuming mana
AHHH!
[Name: Slayer's Claymore]
User Level: LV.25 (B)
Category: Sword
ATK +180
[Name: Desert Centipede Shell]
User Level: LV.15 (C+)
Category: Shield
Physical Damage Decrease +10%
Stamina +3 Strength +3
WHAT'S ALL THIS? IT'S LIKE A VIDEO GAME.
I JUST WANTED TO GO TO AN INTERNET CAFÉ, AND THEN THIS HAPPENED.
[Name: Black Flame Dragon's Mace]
User Level: LV.90 (S+)
Category: Blunt Weapon
ATK +400
Effect: Fang of Darkness buff will be activated when attacking
[Name: Naga Tribe's Enhanced Trident]
User Level: LV.40 (A-)
Category: Spear
ATK +270
[Name: Hammer of Anger]
User Level: LV.5 (D)
Category: Blunt Weapon
ATK +20
[Name: Dwarven Blacksmith Hammer]
User Level: LV.60 (A+)
Category: Blunt Weapon
ATK +400
[Name: Fang's Avarice Staff (Replica)]
User Level: LV.50 (A)
Category: Magic
Effect:
Appetite for Destruction: Doubles magic damage
AM I SUPPOSED TO PICK A WEAPON?

[Name: Demon Monarch's Sword (Replica)]
User Level: LV.60 (A+)
Category: Sword
ATK +170
Effect: Storm of White Lightning buff will be activated when attacking
EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE LEVEL-LOCKED. SO THE STRONGER I GET, THE BETTER THE WEAPONS I CAN USE...
[Name: Twelfth Prince's Four-Tiger Sword]
User Level: LV.30 (B+)
Category: Sword
ATK +150
[Name: Sword Aimed at a Powerful Being]
User Level: LV.8 (C-)
Category: Sword
ATK +32
[Name: Steel Sword]
User Level: LV.1 (E)
Category: Sword
ATK +10
WHAT'S THIS? WAS IT SHOVED IN A CORNER BECAUSE IT'S SO WEAK?

...WHO WOULD USE SUCH A LAME WEAPON?
[Name: Knight Killer]
User Level: LV.25 (B)
Category: Dagger
ATK +75
Effect: Extra 25% damage when attacking heavy armor
AND GAUNTLETS ARE IN THIS CORNER...

THIS'LL BE FUN.
A SWORD IS TOO CLICHÉ, SO SHOULD I GO FOR THIS ONE?


CLANK
[Name: Attack Gauntlets]
User Level: LV.1 (E)
Category: Glove
ATK +4
STATUS
NAME: Sooho Sung
LEVEL: 1
JOB: None
FATIGUE: 0
TITLE: Young Master
HP: 100 (+3,300)
MP: 10 (+1,600)
STRENGTH: 10 (+40)
STAMINA: 10 (+40)
AGILITY: 10 (+40)
INTELLECT: 10 (+40)
PERCEPTION: 10 (+40)
Available points: (Not available)
I'M GETTING FIRED UP!


HELLO? ANYBODY HERE?

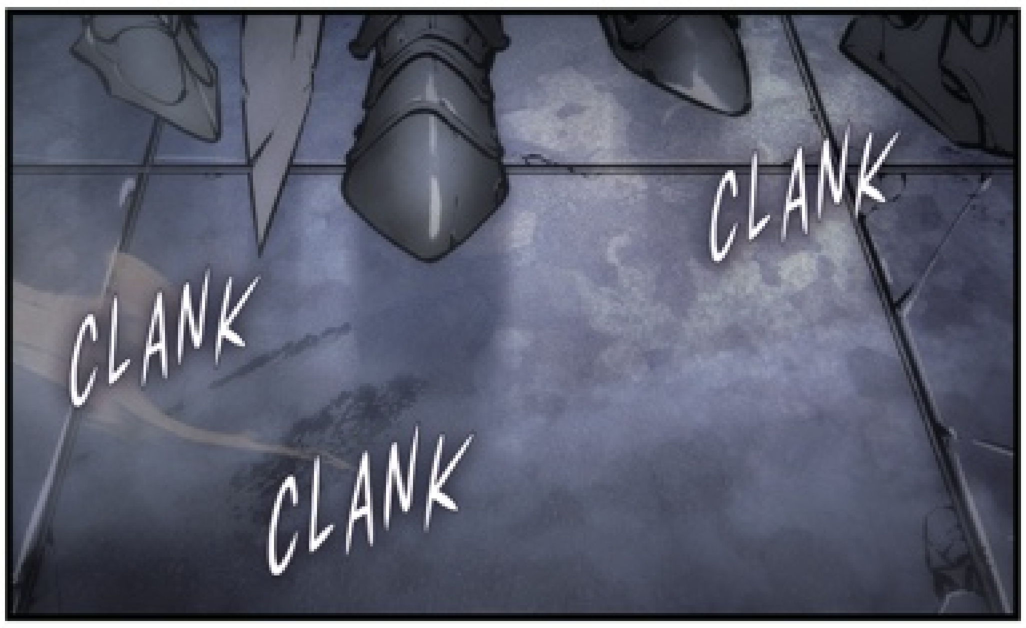
IS THIS THE BASEMENT OF A CASTLE OR SOMETHING?

GLEAM
CREEEAK
WHOOSH

CLANG
KRIK
WH-WHAT THE HELL?!
KRIIIK

CLANG
BANG
BANG
BAM
BAM
BAM
KA-
BOOM

NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!
HUFF!
HUFF!
THUD
THESE SUITS OF ARMOR CAN MOVE?

WAIT…! WEREN'T THERE A TON OF THESE ALONG THE WAY?

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
AHH...
I KNEW IT...

WHO
OM

BANG
BOOM
BAM
BAM
HUFF!
HUFF!
WHUD
THUMP
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!

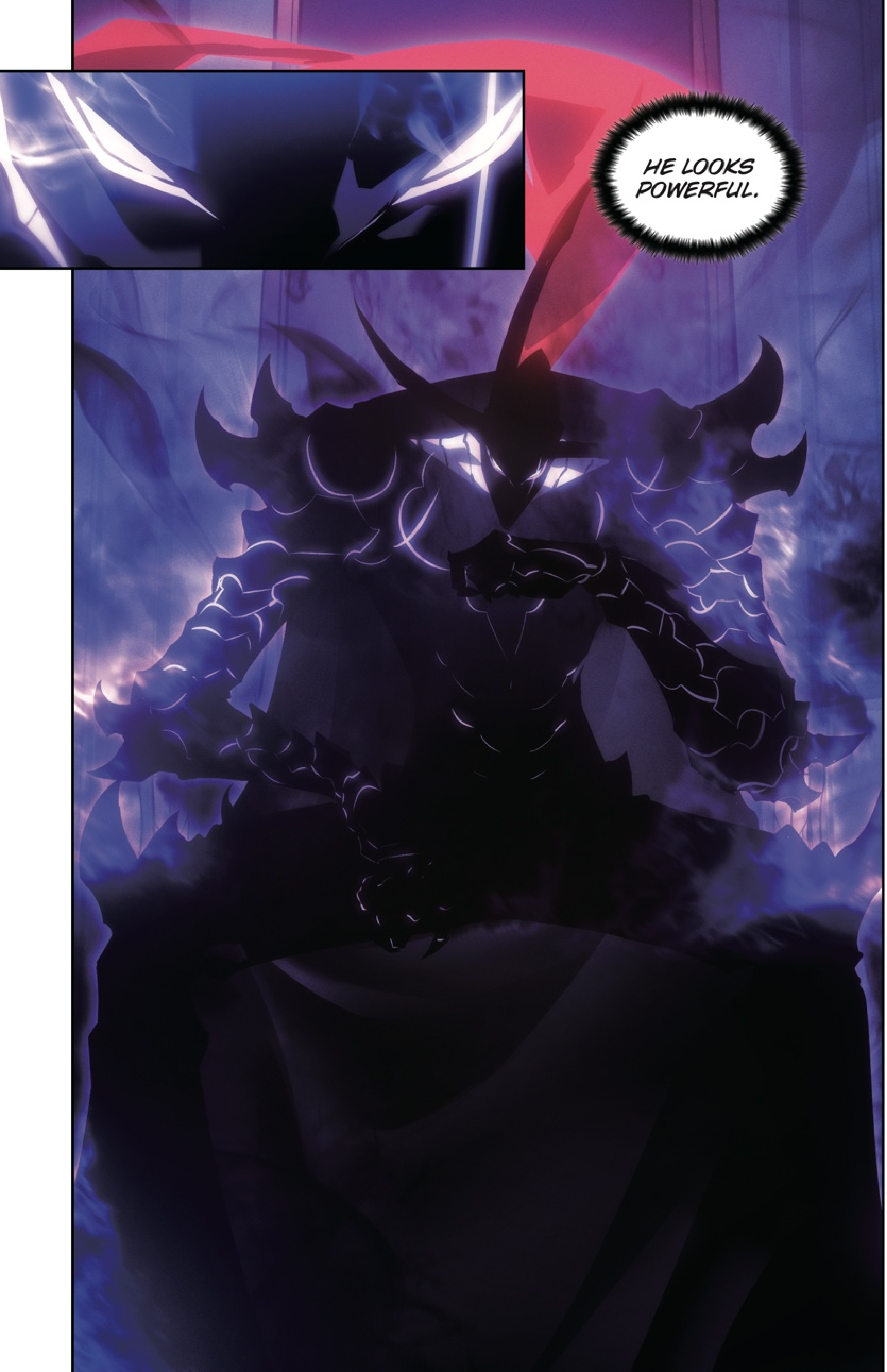
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLENCH
SLAM

WHOOOM
KA-BLAM
BAM
WHOOSH
FWIP

NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!
WHEW...
[Current Level: 19]
IT REALLY IS LIKE A VIDEO GAME.
AFTER I DEFEATED THE LIVING ARMOR, MY LEVEL WENT UP...
...AND THEN I GOT STRONGER...

IT WAS HARD AT FIRST, BUT IT'S EASIER NOW EVEN WHEN A BUNCH OF THEM ATTACK ME AT ONCE...
BUT WEREN'T THESE GUYS A HIGHER LEVEL THAN ME?
HOW WAS I ABLE TO DEFEAT THEM EVEN WHEN I WAS ONLY LEVEL ONE?
HOW...?
STRENGTH: 28 (+40)
AGILITY: 28 (+40)
PERCEPTION: 28 (+40)
STAMINA: 28 (+40)
INTELLECT: 28 (+40)
Available points:
(Not available)
IS IT BECAUSE OF THIS MYSTERIOUS POWER?

I WANT TO BE A BIT STRONGER.
CREEEAK
FWOOM
DA-
IS THAT THE BOSS?
DUN


HE LOOKS POWERFUL.

SHF
CLENCH
I NEED TO GET IN THE FIRST ATTACK.
ZOOM

...HUH?
HA
BOOM

BOLT
GAH!

WHAT JUST HAPPENED? AM I...STILL ALIVE?

IS THIS...
...WHERE I STARTED?

HAAH... I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!
THEN DO I HAVE TO GO DOWN THE SAME PATH AGAIN?

RUSTLE
...ONE OF THE TORCH FLAMES HAS GONE OUT. ALL THREE OF THEM WERE DEFINITELY ON FIRE BEFORE.
COULD IT BE A COINCI-DENCE?
SINCE MY LEVEL HAS GONE UP, I SHOULD CHANGE MY WEAPON...
CLACK
[Name: Needle Knuckle-Type Gauntlet]
User Level: LV.15 (C+)
Category: Gauntlets
ATK +27 Fatality Rate: +10%
I NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL.
TMP
AFTER ALL, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE LAST FLAME GOES OUT.

BOLT
AH!
AHHHHH!
GAAAAH!
ROLL
ROLL
THAT BLACK KNIGHT IS TOO STRONG!
HE'S STUPIDLY OP!

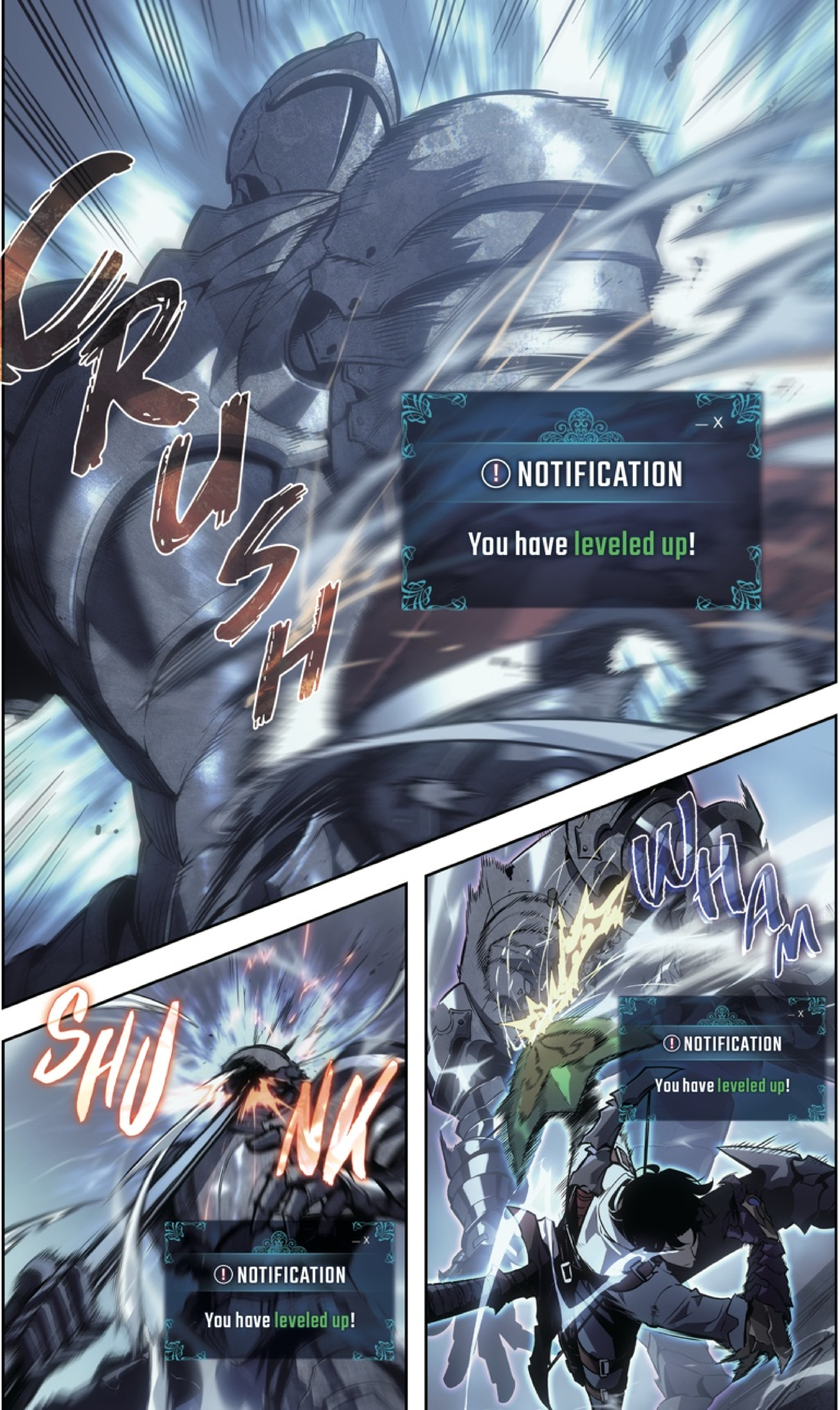
THIS IS SO FRUSTRATING...
I'LL NEVER WIN AGAINST HIM AT THIS RATE!
FINE! I'LL FIGHT HIM AFTER GRINDING FOR A BIT!
DA
OH, RIGHT...
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S THE WEAPON HE WAS USING...
[Name: Demon Monarch's Sword (Replica)]
User Level: LV.60 (A+)
Category: Sword
ATK +170
Effect: Storm of White Lightning buff will be activated when attacking
I'LL HAVE TO BE ON MY GUARD.
IF HE HAS THE ORIGINAL ONE, THEN HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE IS THERE IN OUR LEVELS?!
DUN

CLANK
CLANK
CLUNK

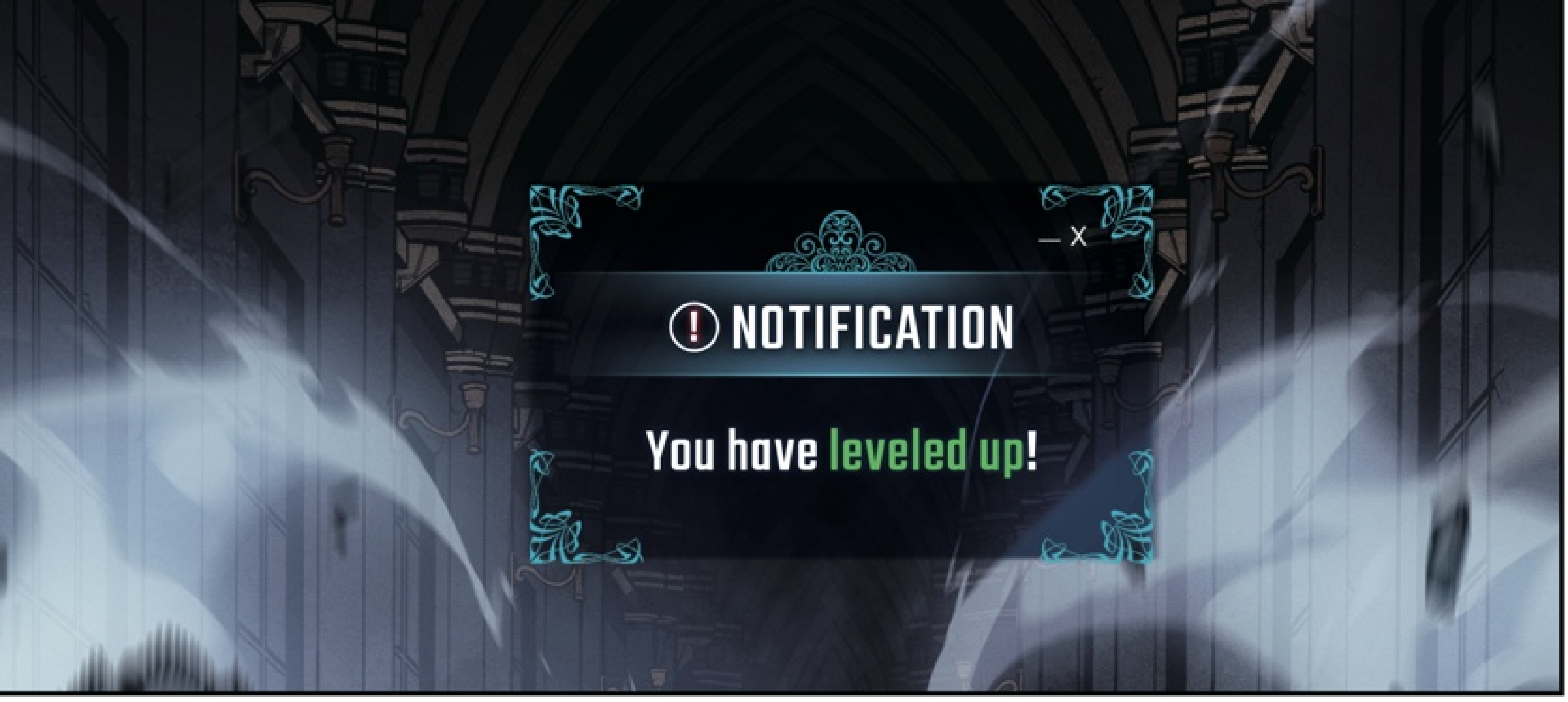
OH, C'MON. WE HAVE TO STOP MEETING LIKE THIS, YOU GUYS.
TMP
TMP

THESE GUYS RESPAWN EVERY TIME...

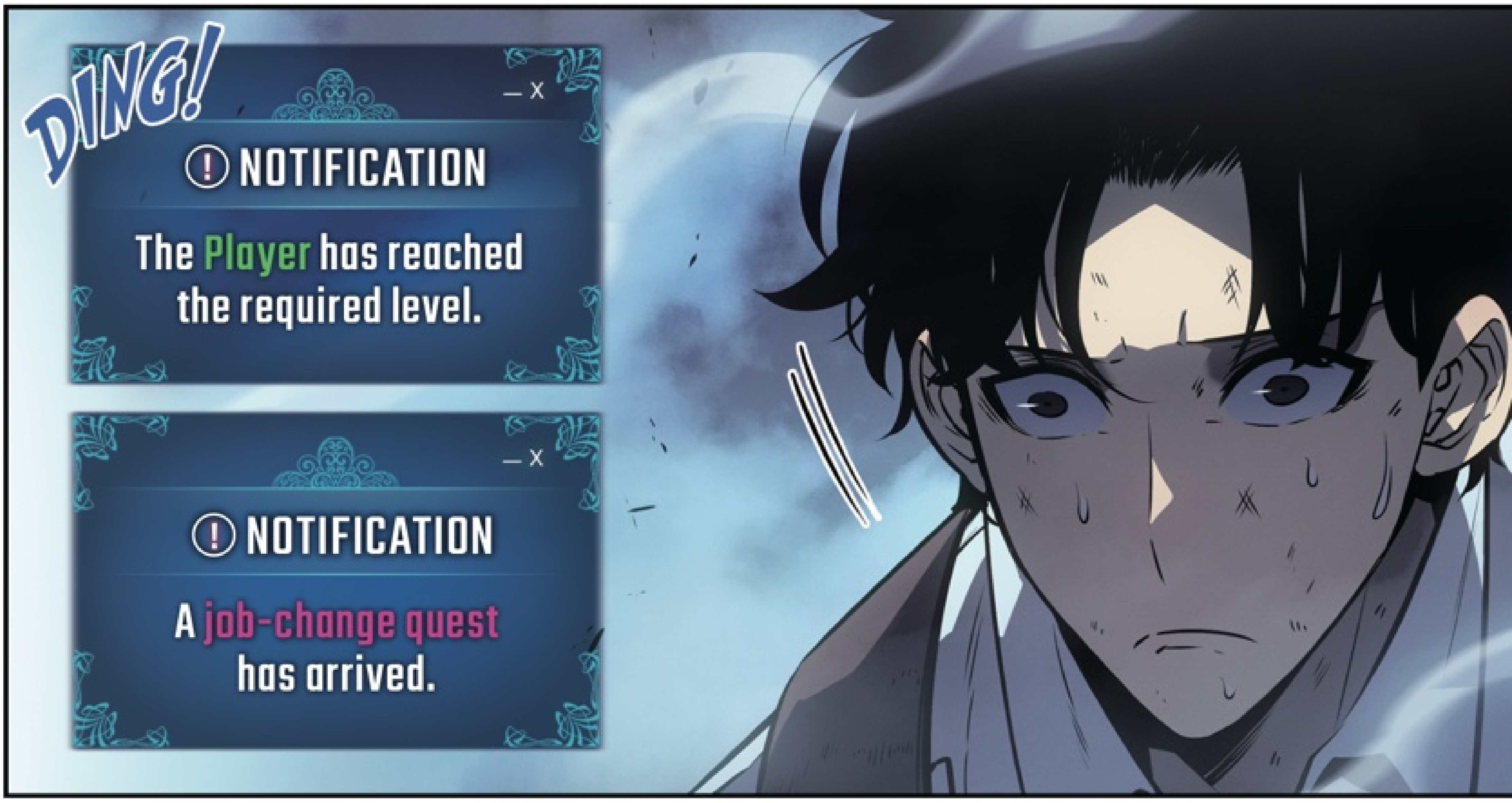
GRIN
DOES THAT MEAN THEY'LL CONSTANTLY REGENERATE?

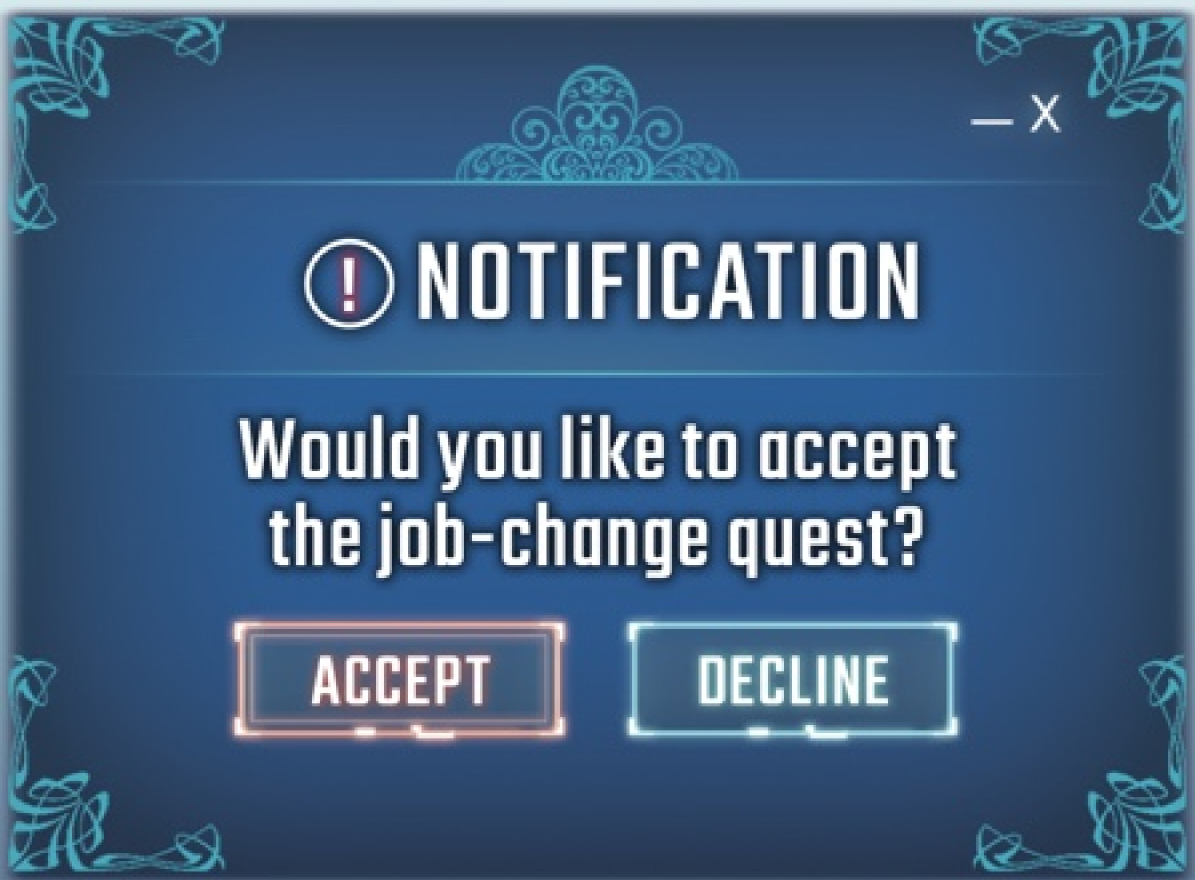

CRUSH
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!
SHUNK
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!
WHAM
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!

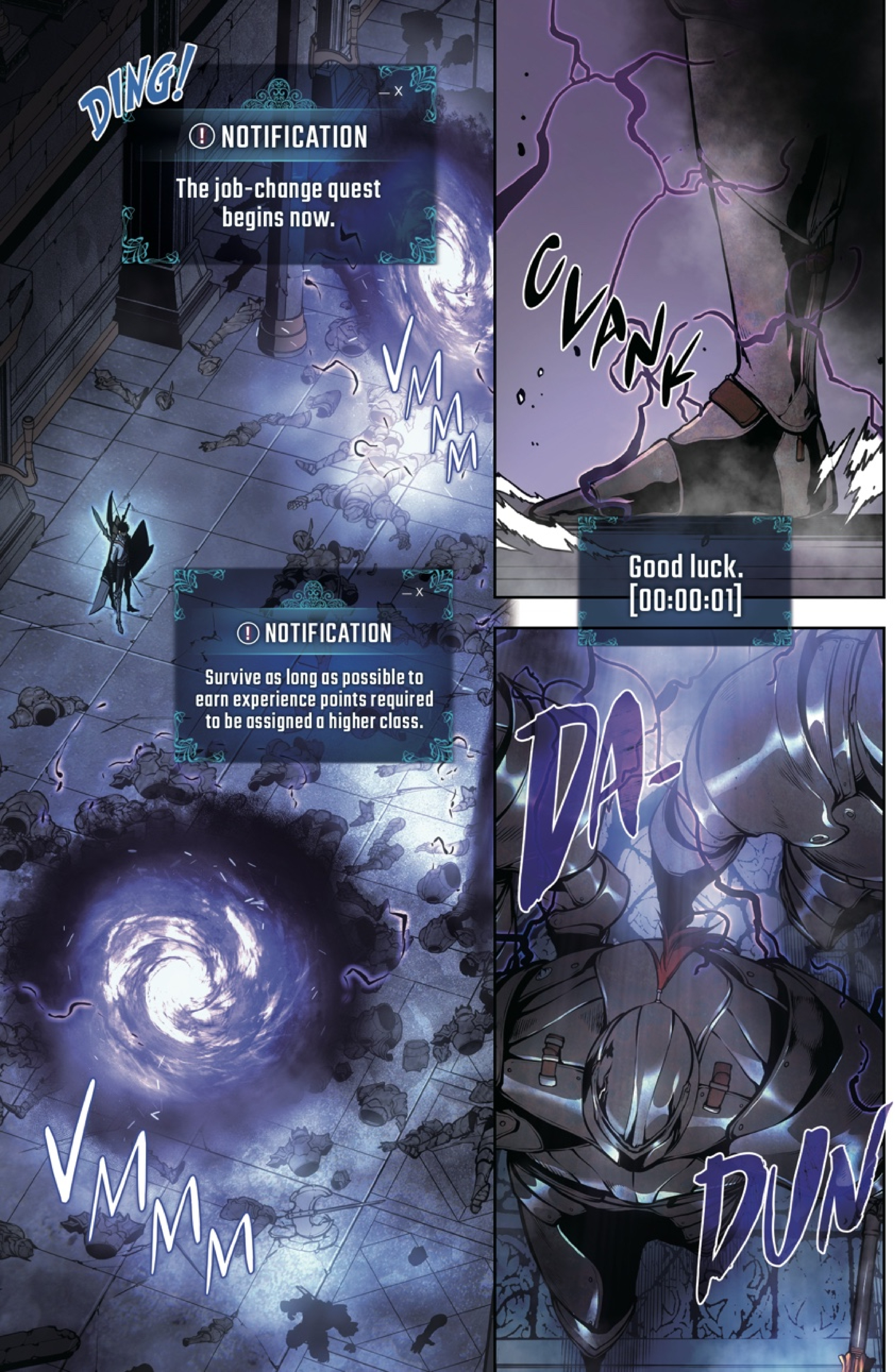
ZOOM
SLAM


— X
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!

— X
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!
HUFF!
HUFF!
— X
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!


DING!
NOTIFICATION
The Player has reached the required level.
NOTIFICATION
A job-change quest has arrived.


NOTIFICATION
Would you like to accept the job-change quest?
ACCEPT
DECLINE

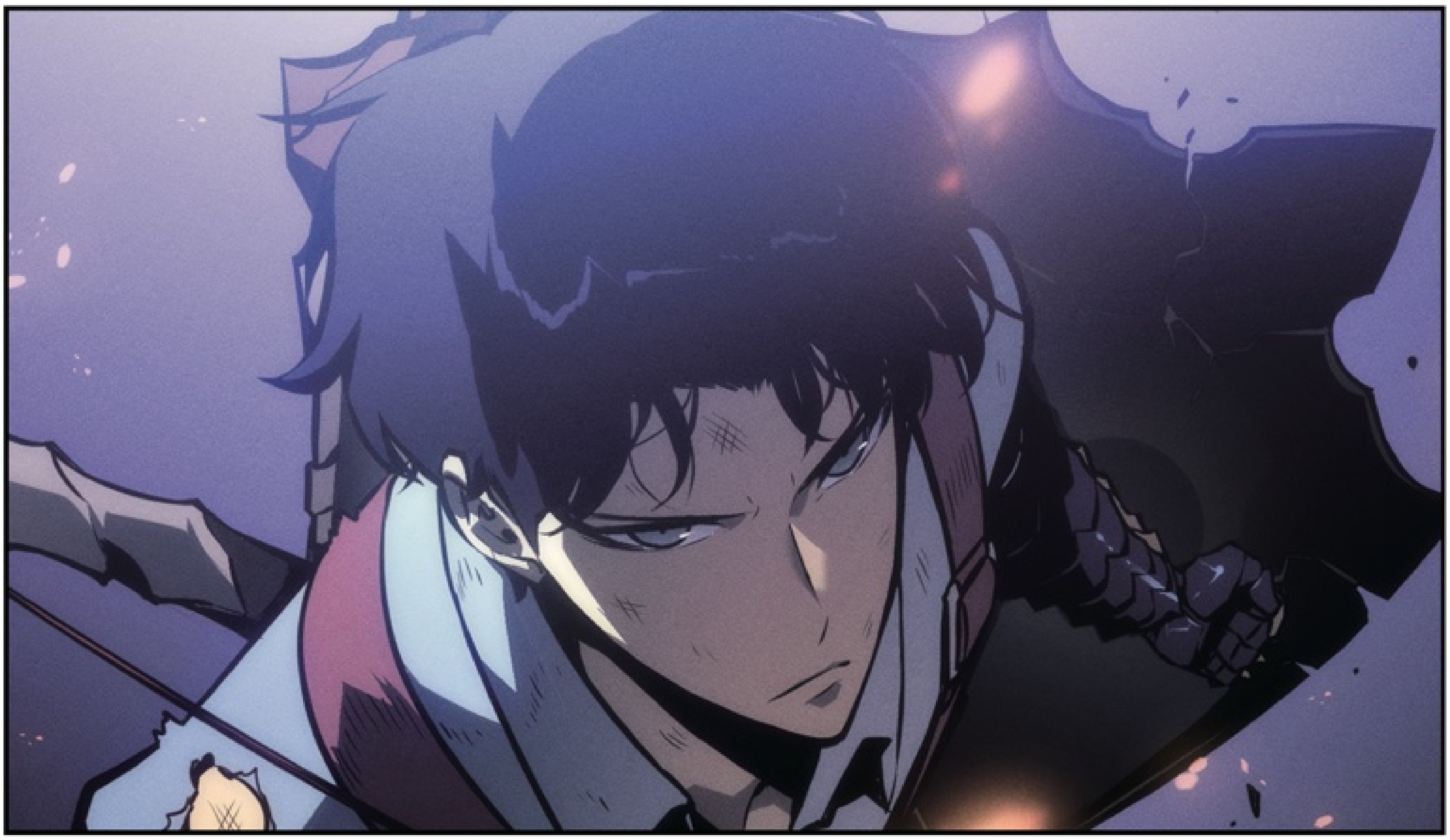

DING!
NOTIFICATION
The job-change quest begins now.
VMMM
NOTIFICATION
Survive as long as possible to earn experience points required to be assigned a higher class.
VMMM
CLANK
Good luck.
[00:00:01]
DA-
DUN

[00:00:14]
I DON'T HAVE A WATCH, SO THIS IS PERFECT.

FWOOM
FWOO
SH
LEAP

KA-
BLAM
TMP

KA-BOOM
HUFF!
HUFF!

VWOOOM


RUMBLE
WHEW...
I DON'T NEED THIS ANYMORE!
TOSS
CLATTER
STOMP

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
CRUMBLE
I DON'T...
LEAP

...NEED THIS EITHER!
WHOOSH
CRASH
WHUMP
THUD

SHWP
ZOOOM
TMP

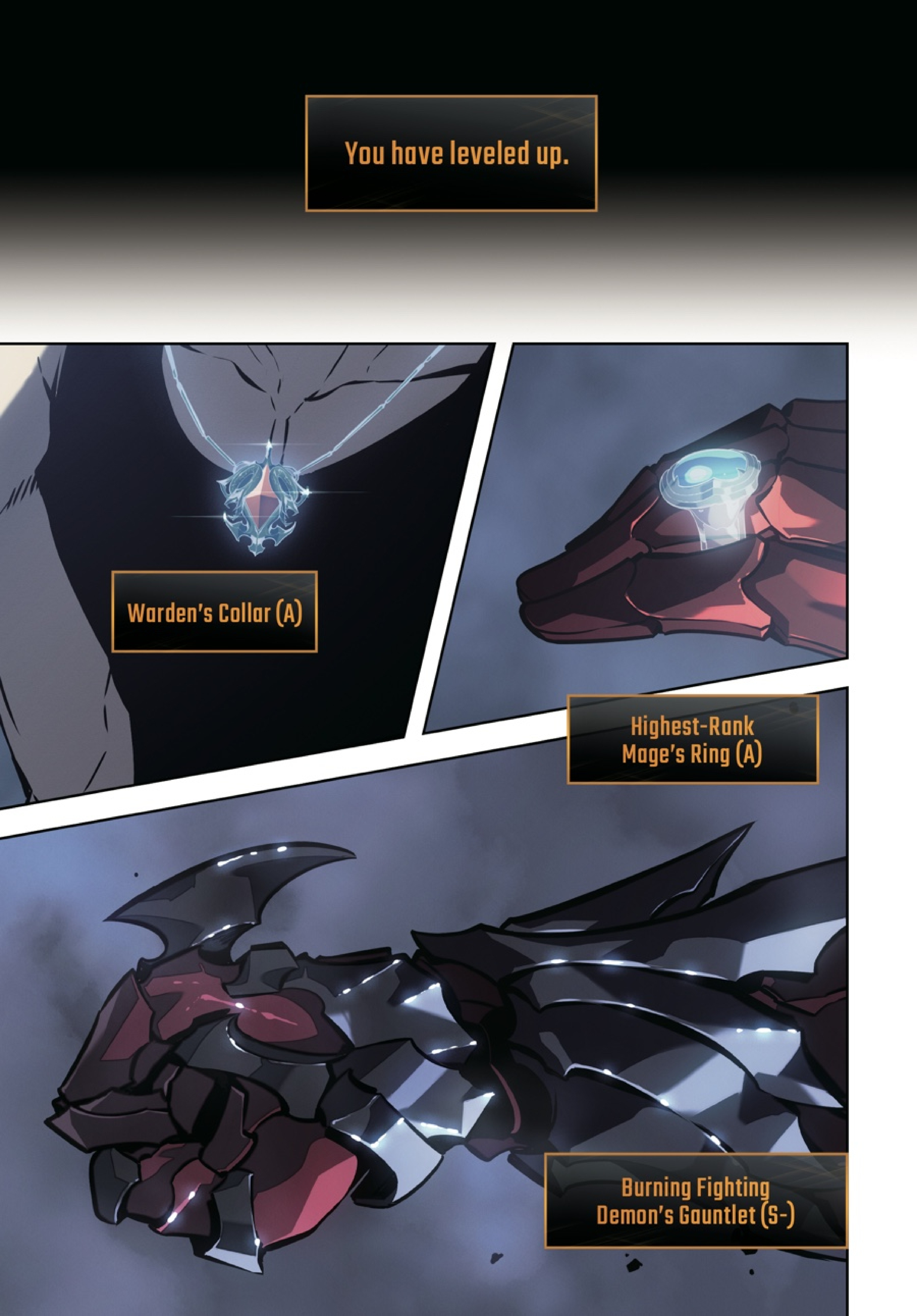
SLASH
I'VE GOT TWO PERFECTLY GOOD WEAPONS RIGHT HERE.
SHUNK
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE!
SHUNK

DING!
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!
NOTIFICATION
You have leveled up!
Depending on the experience points acquired, you may progress to a higher class.
DING!
The appropriate job will be assigned after analyzing the Player's actions.
Your will to fight overcomes every difficulty.
PING!
You are not afraid of any trial and move forward trusting your power.
PING!
Your job is fighter.
Your job has been finalized.
Depending on the experience points acquired, you may have a chance to progress to a higher class.

DING!
You have exceeded the expected play time.
Bonus points will be awarded.
DING!
Leftover HP is over 50%.
Bonus points will be awarded.
DING!
You have defeated all the enemies.
Bonus points will be awarded.
Your total advancement points have exceeded the class threshold.
PING!
Your job has changed from fighter to soul striker.
THIS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THAT KNIGHT...

...I NEED TO BE EVEN STRONGER!!
If you do not advance to the next lair, more enemies will occupy the area.


You have leveled up.
Warden's Collar (A)
Highest-Rank Mage's Ring (A)
Burning Fighting Demon's Gauntlet (S-)

DID I KEEP YOU WAITING?
IT'S MY TURN NOW.
Name: Sooho Sung
Level: 70

KRA-
KOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

BAM
BAM
WHAM

KA-BOOOOM
BA-BA-BAM
SHK SHK
WAP
SLASH

KA-
BAM
BAM
BAM

THIS IS STILL LACKING...!
I NEED TO INCREASE MY SPEED!

CL
ANG
TMP

SL
AM

SO THE YOUNG MASTER IS ALREADY THIS POWERFUL DESPITE NOT BEING AT FULL STRENGTH YET?
NOW THAT I'M FIGHTING THIS BLACK KNIGHT AGAIN AFTER LEVELING UP...
SHWP
...IT'S CLEAR HE'S EVEN STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT!
HIS STATS ARE ON ANOTHER LEVEL COMPARED TO THE RESPAWNING KNIGHTS.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S EXCEPTIONAL.

BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...
THWACK
...THEN SO AM I!

I DON'T KNOW THIS GAME'S RULES, BUT...

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

IS IT BECAUSE OF THIS MYSTERIOUS POWER?
HOW...?
...I WAS GIVEN EXTRA POINTS FOR MY STATS FROM THE BEGINNING. THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT HIGHER-LEVEL SOLDIERS AT LEVEL ONE.

CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT EVERY STAT WENT UP BY ONE EVERY TIME I LEVELED UP...
STRENGTH: 80 (+40)
STAMINA: 80 (+40)
AGILITY: 80 (+40)
INTELLECT: 80 (+40)
PERCEPTION: 80 (+40)
AP: Not available
...IF ONE TAKES MY BONUS POINTS INTO ACCOUNT, I'M NOT LEVEL 70...
...BUT LEVEL 110!
KA
BOOM
Title: Young Master
All stats have increased by 40 points due to inheriting the Shadow Monarch's abilities.

CRASH
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
TMP

KABOOM
HIS FATHER ULTIMATELY BECAME ONE WITH A GODLIKE BEING...
...AND HIS MOTHER USED TO BE AN S-RANK AWAKENED BEING. MAGIC AND SKILLS ARE IN HIS BLOOD.
CRACK
CRACK
ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY USE HIS ABILITIES, HE CAN ALREADY MAKE THIS MUCH USE OF THEM.
THE YOUNG MASTER HAS INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL.
THUD

YOUNG MASTER...
...THIS IS MY LOSS.

KA-
BLAM
FSHH
HHH

I WON!!!
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.
I FINALLY DID IT! IN YOUR FACE!
ZZZT
HA-HA-HA!
VMMMM
HUH?

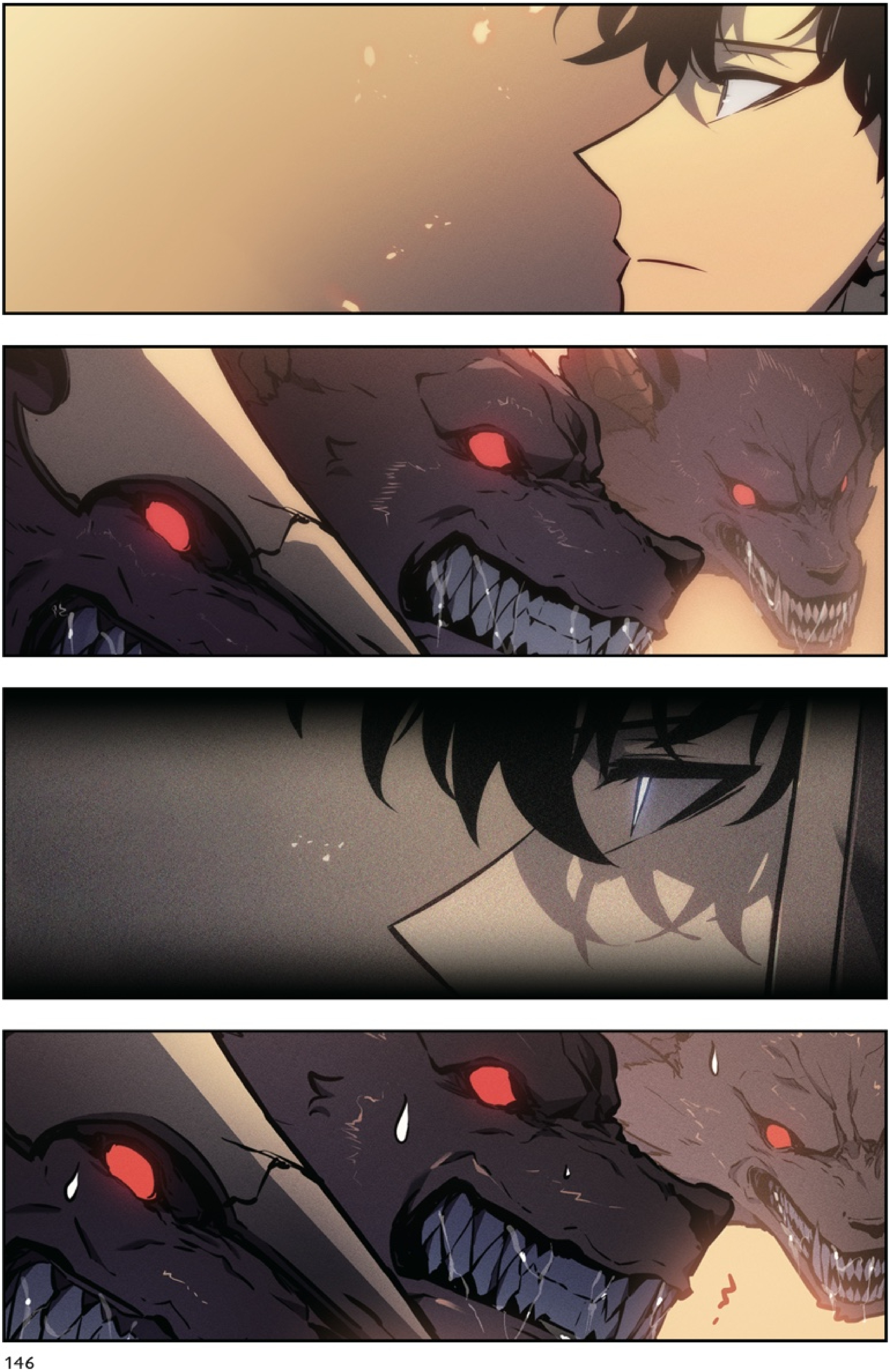
IS THAT AN EXIT?
ZZZZT
!

Solo Leveling

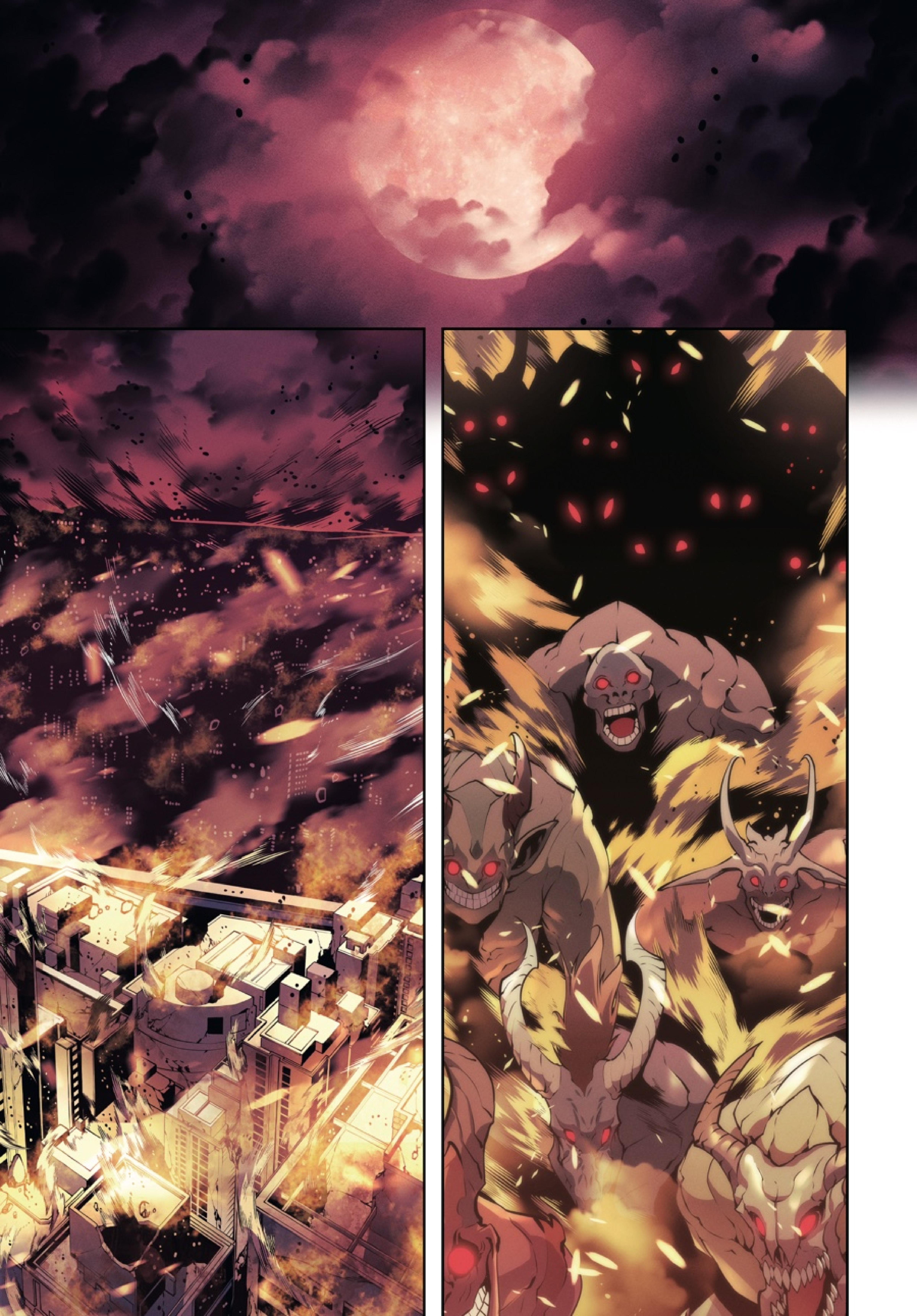
Part 6

IS THAT... D-TOWER IN SONGPA-GU?
WHY IS IT...
FWOOSH
...ON FIRE?!
?!

DA-
DUN



HMM... I GUESS THAT'S NOT A MONSTER...
...BUT SOME STATUE.
IS FIRE THE THEME OF THIS PLACE?
WHIMPER!
...IT'S ANOTHER DOOR.
NOTHING WILL BEGIN IF I DON'T OPEN IT, SO...
CREAK



DUN
DU-DUN
EH?

TENTH FLOOR
POW
TWENTIETH FLOOR
POW
POW
POW
POW
THIRTIETH FLOOR
KA-POW
POW
POW
POW
HUH...? WHY ARE ALL THESE MONSTERS SO WEAK?
FIFTIETH FLOOR
IT'S NO FUN BECAUSE EVEN THE FLOOR BOSSES ARE DONE WITH JUST A FEW PUNCHES.

WELL, I DID GRIND MY LEVEL TO DEFEAT THE BLACK KNIGHT. DID I OVERDO IT?
EVEN THOUGH THE MAP IS HUGE, I CAN CLEAR ONE FLOOR PER HOUR IF I KEEP AT IT.
HOW COULD HE GET HERE SO FAST WITHOUT A SINGLE SOLDIER OF HIS OWN...?!
AHHHH!
HE'S ALREADY CLEARED EIGHTY-SEVEN FLOORS...?!
ZZZT
FINALLY, THE HUNDREDTH FLOOR...
ALTHOUGH, EVEN THIS AREA ISN'T MU—

LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME AND FINI—
P-PLEASE, WAIT...!
OUR LIEGE HAD SUCH A HARD TIME GETTING HERE...
...SO I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT HERE SO FAST AFTER SO FEW ATTEMPTS AND WITHOUT ANY SOLDIERS, YOUNG MASTER...

YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT NEARLY THIS FAR LAST TIME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'VE PROGRESSED THIS MUCH...
"LAST TIME"?
I-IT'S NOTHING.
MY NAME IS ESIL. I'M THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE RADIR CLAN...
...THE HIGHEST OF THE DEMON CLANS. WELCOME TO THE LAST STAGE.
ALREADY? THAT'S IT?
...WE ARE INDEED THE LAST FLOOR.
ORIGINALLY THERE WAS A DEMON KING STAGE...
...BUT IT WAS DISCARDED AFTER WE BECAME THE NUMBER ONE DEMON CLAN.

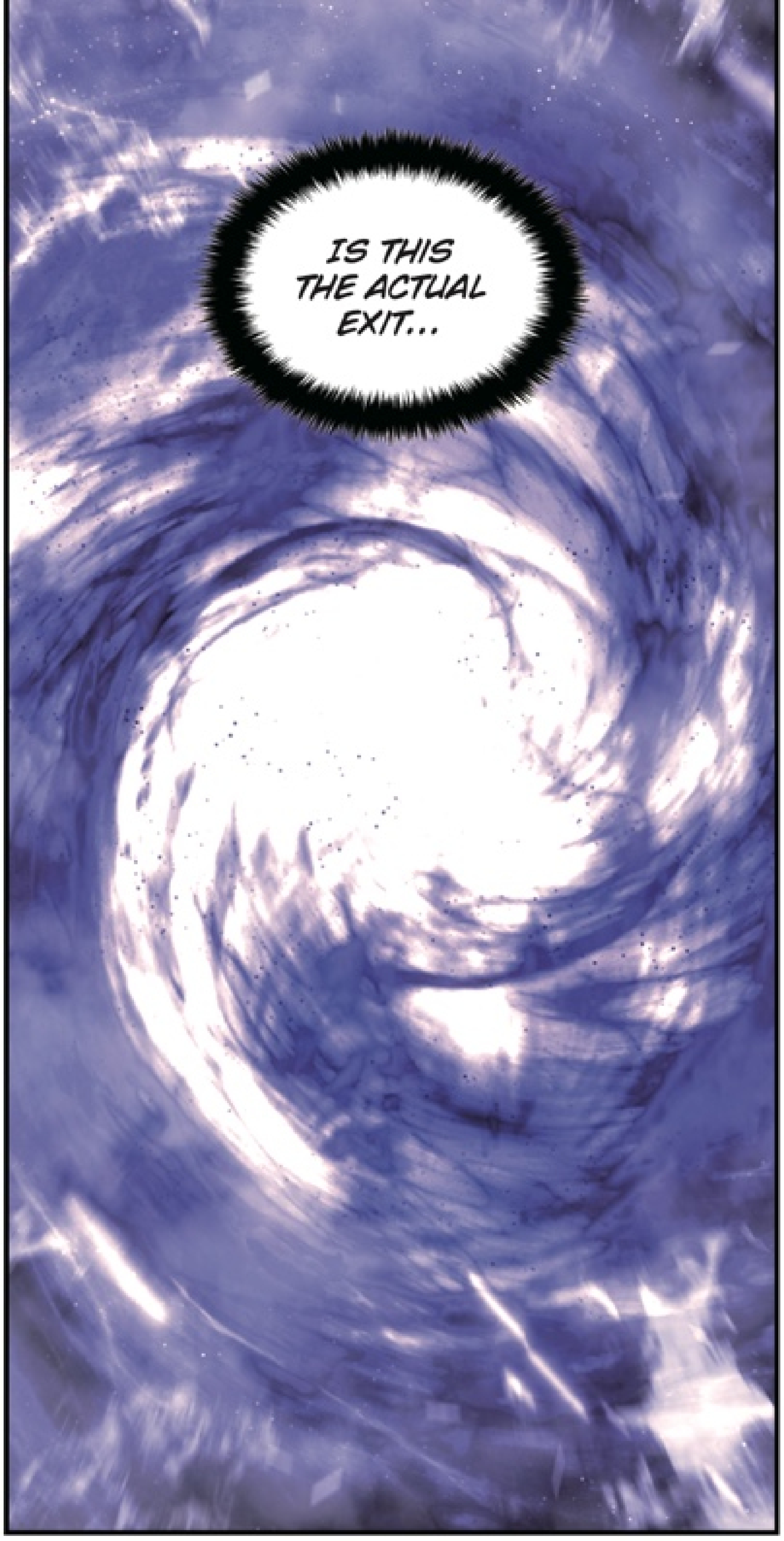
HOW ABOUT A PARTY TO CELEBRATE YOUR FIRST TIME ON THIS FLOOR, YOUNG MASTER? MY FATHER—
I MEAN, OUR CLAN MASTER HAS PREPARED A CELEBRATION FOR YOU.
IF THIS IS THE LAST AREA, THEN WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A GATE TO ANOTHER PLACE.
A "GATE"?

SO THESE THINGS ARE CALLED GATES, HUH?
GATE...
IN OTHER WORDS, A DOOR...
NICE.

OH, ARE YOU LEAVING? WHAT ABOUT THE PARTY...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT DEMONS CONSUME, BUT I'M NOT OF DRINKING AGE.
I'LL TAKE A RAIN CHECK UNTIL I'M OLDER, IF THAT'S OKAY.
I SEE...THEN PLEASE COME SEE US WHEN—
AH!
WAIT, NO!
OUR LIEGE ALSO PROMISED TO SEE US AGAIN, BUT HE NEVER CAME BACK.
SEE YOU NEXT TIME.
THE DEMON CASTLE HAS BEEN ABANDONED FOR SIXTY YEARS...
WE WERE ONLY CALLED UPON TO MAKE HIS STATUE...

YOU SAID YOU WERE ISIL FROM RADIS CLAN? I WON'T FORGET YOU.
SEE YOU NEXT TIME.
HEE
HEE!
YES, SEE YOU NEXT TIME.


IS THIS THE ACTUAL EXIT...

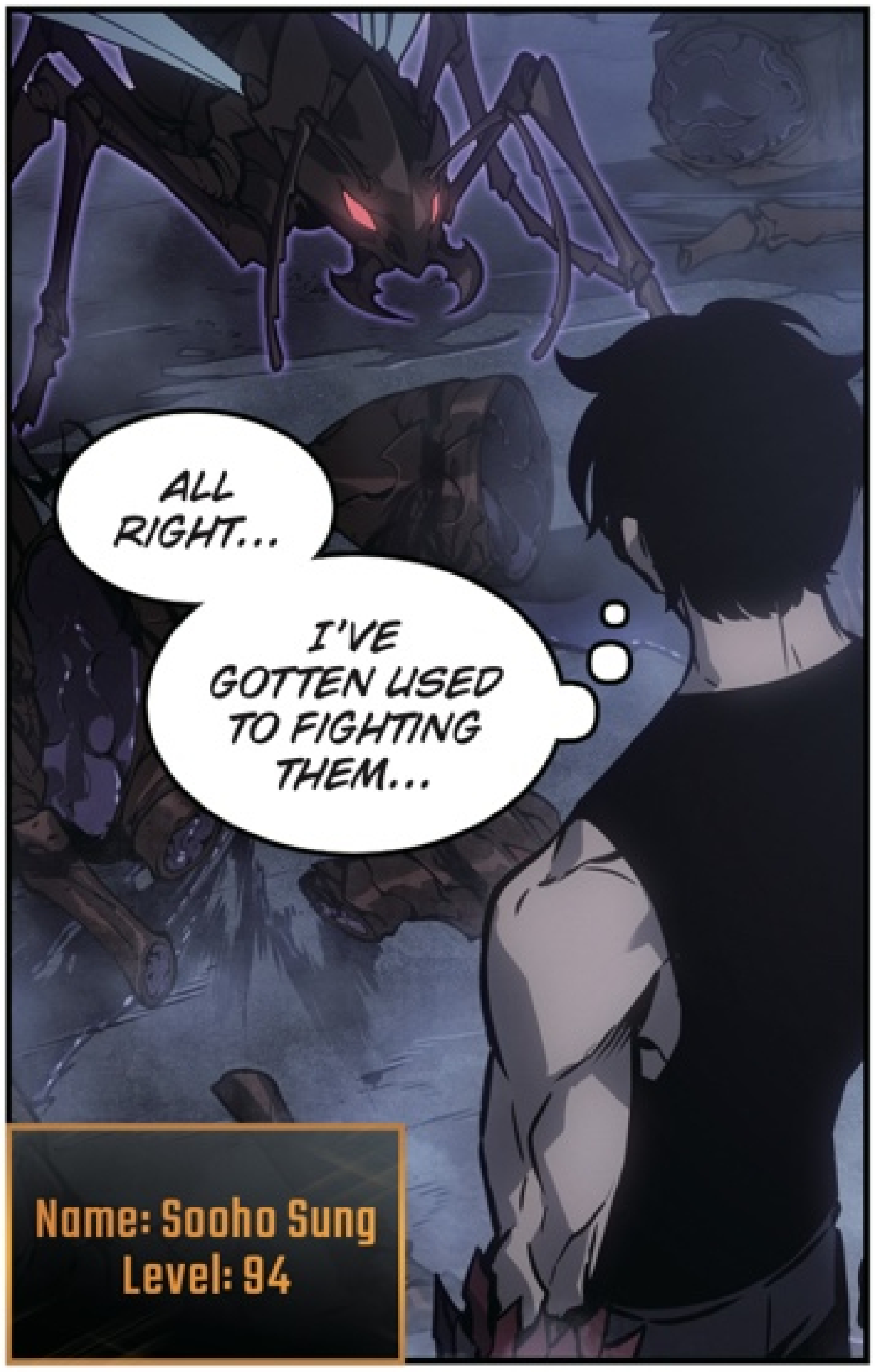
...OR A TRAP?
DON'T TELL ME...IT'S NOT OVER YET?

KREE!
KRAH!

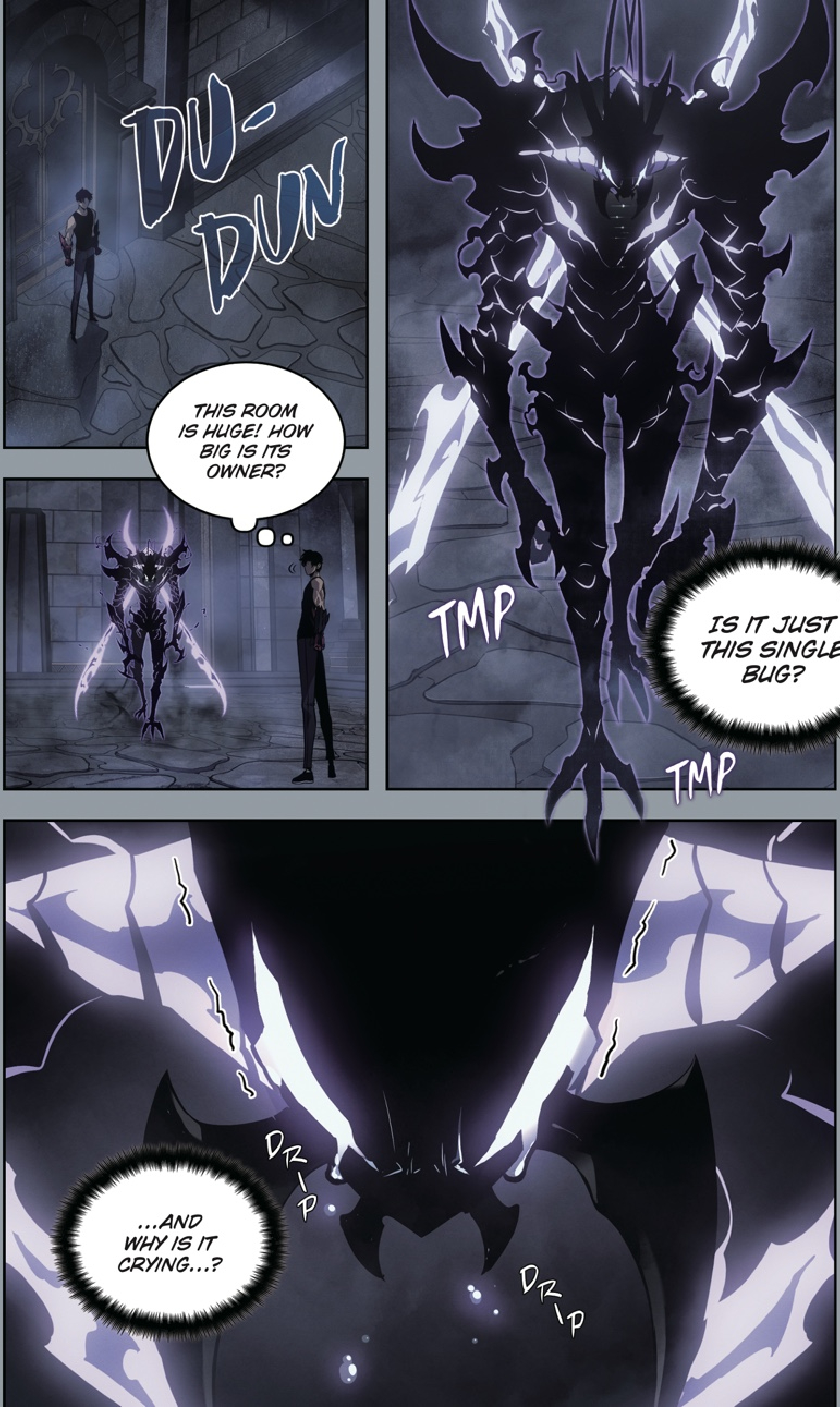
SKREEEEEE!
SKRAAAH!
SKREEEE!
......

SKREEE!
WHAT IS WITH THESE ANTS?!
SKREE!
DAMN IT! THERE'S NO END TO THEM!
POW
POW
POW

SLAM
You have leveled up.
STILL, THEY MAKE FOR NICE FODDER.


ALL RIGHT...
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO FIGHTING THEM...
Name: Sooho Sung
Level: 94

I SHOULD BE OKAY TO MAKE MY WAY INSIDE THAT ROOM, RIGHT?


DU-DUN
THIS ROOM IS HUGE! HOW BIG IS ITS OWNER?
TMP
IS IT JUST THIS SINGLE BUG?
TMP
DRIP
...AND WHY IS IT CRYING...?
DRIP

SKRAAAAA!
KA-POW
POW
POW
WHAM
WHOOSH

HALT
?
THUD
?
WHACK

ZING
WHOOOSH
SKID
RUMBLE

HALT
?
SMACK
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ANT'S DEAL?!
KREE...
KRAH!

SKRAH!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
I-I LET MY GUARD DOWN...
FWUMP
HUFF!
HUFF!
THANK GOD!
THAT COULD'VE BEEN REALLY BAD!
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.
You have leveled up.

THE WINGED ANT...WAS REALLY SCARY, BUT WEIRD.
HE KEPT HESITATING AND NOT ATTACKING PROPERLY. HE MADE MISTAKE AFTER MISTAKE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, I WAS JUST BARELY ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM...
UGH...I ACHE ALL OVER.
ZZZT
VMMMM
IS THAT ANOTHER GATE?

IT LOOKS LIKE MY LEVEL WON'T GO PAST 99. MAYBE I CAN FINALLY GO HOME.
VMMMMM
Name: Sooho Sung
Level: 99
HUH?
ZZZT
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
UGH...
AGAIN?!

IT'S JUST ONE MONSTER AFTER ANOTHER.
MY LEVEL IS STILL STUCK AT 99.
STAB

KA-
BAM
CLANG
DASH
KA-
POW

THUD

SHATTER

KICK
POW
CRACK
THUD

POAAAAAR!
CHOMP
SHWP

THEY'RE ALSO DOING AERIAL ATTACKS?

OUTTA THE WAY.
POW
BAM
BAM
WHAM
WHACK
FLASH
HA-HA-HA.
IT HAS BEEN THIRTY YEARS SINCE I JOINED THE ARMY IN THE ETERNAL REST.

ONLY MARSHAL-LEVEL OFFICERS ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR SHADOW FORM...
...SO THE FACT THAT I WAS GIVEN PERMISSION MEANS...
...MY LIEGE RECOGNIZES ME AS A GREAT WARRIOR.
YOUNG MASTER YOU MAY BE, BUT I'M NOT SURE IF EVEN YOU CAN STAND UP TO ME—

SMASH
HUH? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING ...?
POW
POW POW
POW POW
POW POW
POW

SWOOSH
WHOOM
WHAT...
...IS THIS PRESSURE?
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING IS WEIGHING DOWN ON ME!

IS IT THE WORK OF THAT GUY?!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE BLACK KNIGHT AND BLACK ANT RESEMBLED MOVING SHADOWS.
THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE MORE? MAYBE I'M MISTAKEN...
THAT MEANS THE ONES WHO LOOK LIKE HIM ARE THE STAGE BOSSES!

BOOM

IF I CAN JUST GET RID OF HIM...!

HUH? WHAT...?
WAS I... MISTAKEN?
THERE ARE THREE MORE SHADOW-FORMED MONSTERS?!

FWOOOOM

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
SLAM
BAM
CRA
SSH

THWACK
WHO OSH
I'LL GET RID OF THE MOST BOTHERSOME ONE FIRST.

KA-
BOOM

FWOOOOM
OOOH... MY EXPLOSIONS LOOK COOLER NOW THAT I'VE GOT THIS STAFF.
HA...
HA-HA...

POW
KA-POW
SLAM

THUD

HA-HA-HA! WHY, YOUNG MASTER...
DID YOU REALLY THINK A PUNCH OF THAT CALIBER WOULD BE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME—
KA-POW
THE OTHERS MIGHT NOT KNOW THIS, BUT I'VE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO GET TO THIS POSITION SINCE I JOINED THE MASTER'S ARMY!

EVEN IF YOU FORGET, THIS WILL IMPRESS UPON MY MASTER JUST HOW DEEP MY LOYALTY RUNS—
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
TMP
LEAP
WITH MY CURRENT STAMINA, I WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE MANY MORE ENEMIES AT THEIR LEVEL!

FSHHH
I NEED TO...!
I NEED BETTER CONTROL OF MY POWER!
I NEED TO BE ACCURATE...
WHOOM
...WITH NO WASTED MOVES!
THAT WAY, I'LL BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HORDES OF MONSTERS—

EVEN A WHOLE ARMY— ALL BY MYSELF!

KRA-KOOOOM
SHWP
CRASH

C'MON, YOU SHOULD SPICE THINGS UP FOR YOUR FINAL MOVE.
IF THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT, GET LOST ALREADY.
KA-
BLAM
FSHHHH

ALTHOUGH MY LEVEL DIDN'T GO UP... I WAS ABLE TO FINESSE AND FINE-TUNE MY ABILITIES THROUGH THESE BATTLES.

HE'S STRONG.
TMP
HE MAY EVEN BE STRONGER THAN THE BLACK ANT!
YOU CAN SPEAK, RIGHT?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA ASK YOU BEFORE WE FIGHT.
WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE WHOLE ARMY HAVE I FOUGHT SO FAR?
EXCLUDING THE DEMON'S CASTLE AREA, YOU HAVE FOUGHT ONE OUT OF THREE THOUSAND SOLDIERS.

ALL OF THESE MONSTERS, AND YET I'VE BARELY MADE A DENT.
WHEW...
CLENCH
...FINE.

COME AT ME.
YOU HAVE GROWN MARVELOUSLY, YOUNG MASTER.
TMP
TMP

WHOOSH
SHWP
YOU GUYS KEEP CALLING ME "YOUNG MASTER," BUT WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?!
ZB
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHY I WAS KIDNAPPED AND BROUGHT TO THIS WORLD?
AM

AND WHAT'S WITH THE "YOUNG" PART? WHY NOT JUST "MASTER"?!
VOOM
SV
AM

CLUNG
CLANG
CLUNG
SWIIISH
HE CAN WIELD HIS SWORD LIKE A WHIP?!

WHAM
WHAM
BAM
WHAM
WHAM

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
KA-CLANG
IT'S A VERSATILE WEAPON, BUT USELESS IF I GRAB ONTO IT.
CRUSH
!

KA-
BLAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
WHACK
GUARDING WITH BOTH ARMS EXPOSES YOUR STOMACH.

KABOOOM
RUMBLE
WHISH
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT WAS ENOUGH...
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE ALL NIGHT AT THIS RATE.

WHEW...
HEY. YOU'RE NOT THE ONE IN CHARGE, ARE YOU?
YEAH, HE'S A RED HERRING.
THE TRUE FINAL BOSS IS...!

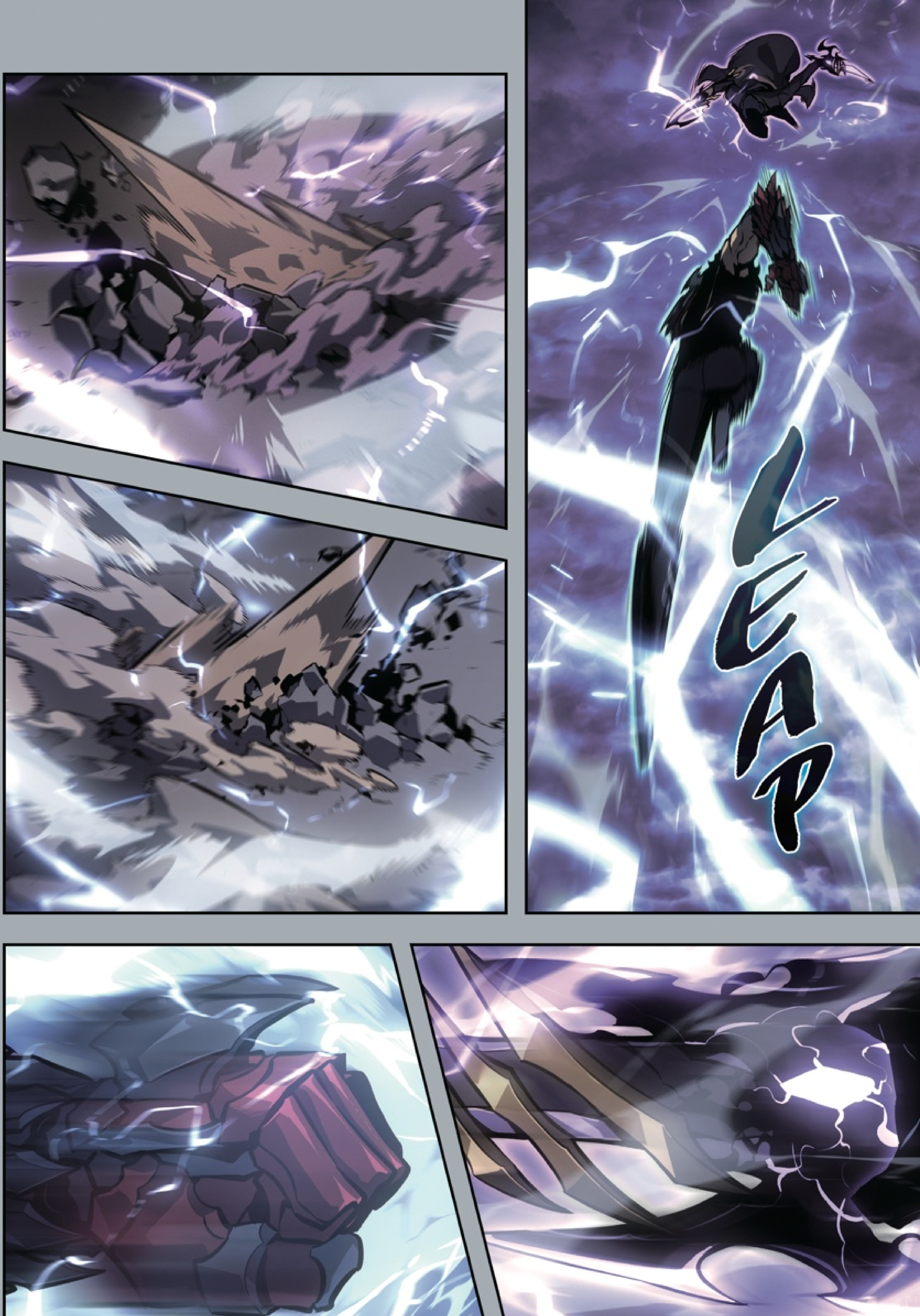
LEAP

THUD
IT'S HIM...!

ZZT
ZZZT
ZZT

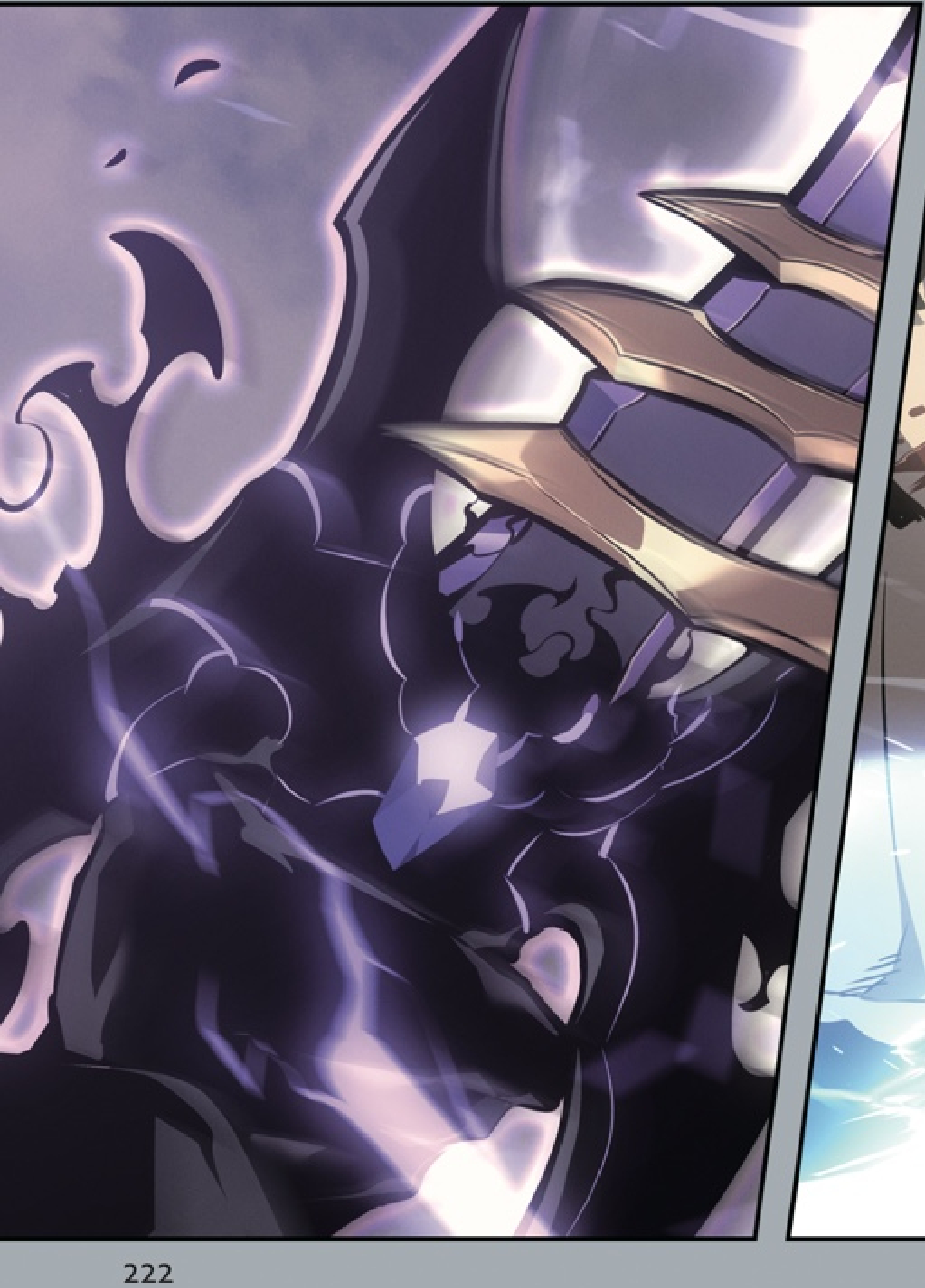
A DAGGER...?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M DEALING WITH A HUMAN ENEMY. MAYBE WE CAN SETTLE THINGS WITH WORDS.
EXCUSE ME!
......
HE'S KEEPING HIS MOUTH SHUT.
HUH? THAT'S...
VVVOOOM
A GATE APPEARED EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T DEFEATED AN ENEMY YET.

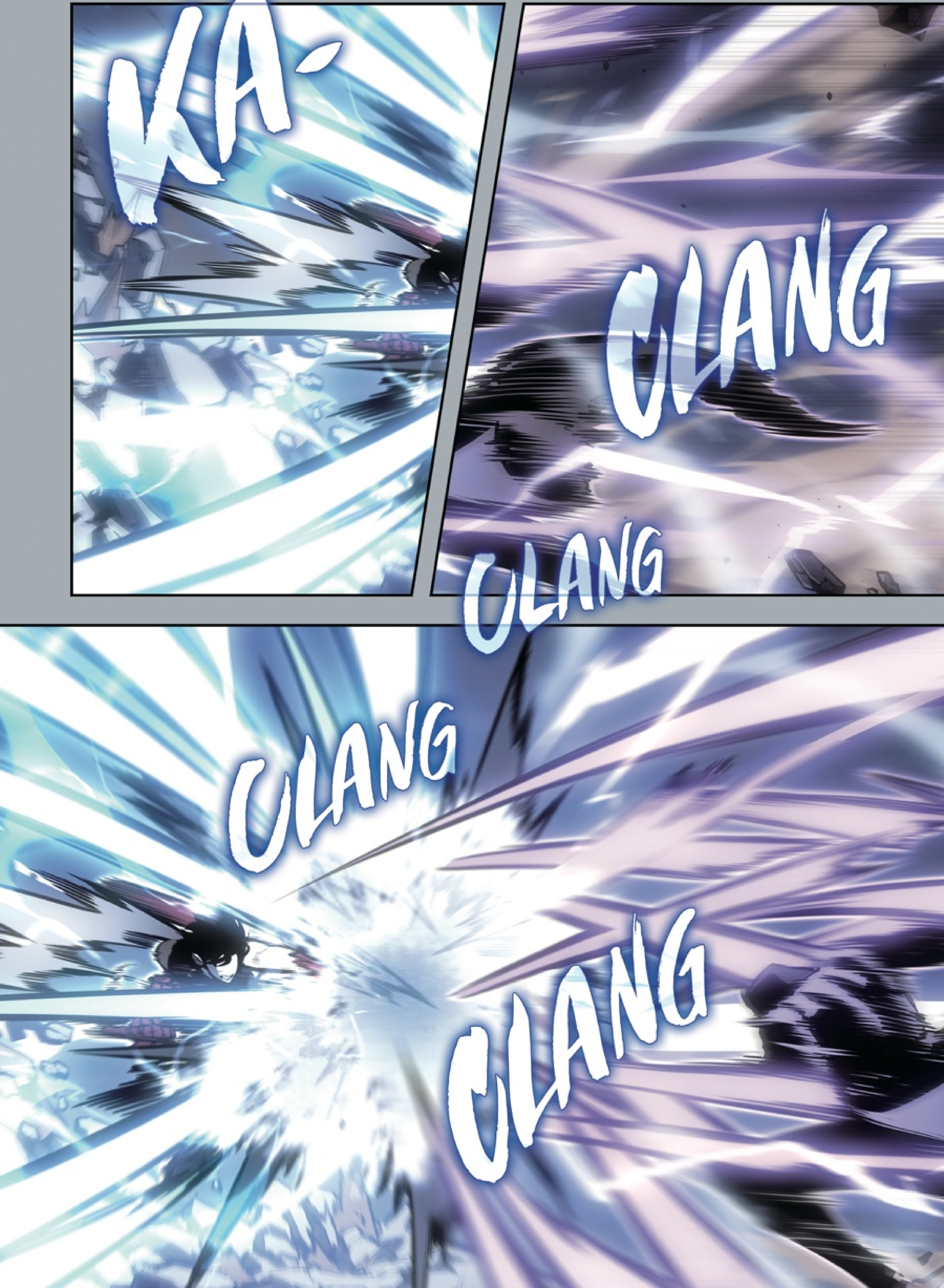
CLENCH
THAT MEANS... THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST FIGHT!
WHOOOSH
IF I DEFEAT HIM, I CAN GO BACK HOME!


LEAP

KA-
BOOM

KA-CLANG
CLANG CLANG CLANG




KA-
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

HE'S FAST!
AND POWERFUL!
SLASH
CLANG
HE'S INCREDIBLE.
NOT ONLY IS HE STRONG, BUT EVERY ATTACK IS DELIBERATE.
HIS MASTERY IS APPARENT WITH EACH MOVE.

HOW MUCH EFFORT HAS HE HAD TO EXPEND...
BA-BA-BAM
...AND HOW MANY TIMES HAS HE FACED DEATH...
...IN ORDER TO REACH SUCH A LEVEL?
KA-POW
SKID

STILL, I CAN'T LET MYSELF LOSE SO EASILY!
NOT ONLY HAVE I REACHED THE UPPER LIMIT OF MY STATS, BUT MY COMBAT PROWESS HAD INCREASED TO MAKE FULL USE OF THEM.
EVEN IF THAT MAN'S ABILITIES SURPASS MINE...
...I STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN!

LEAP
SHATTER
HE MAY BE THE ENEMY, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT RESPECT HIM!
CLENCH

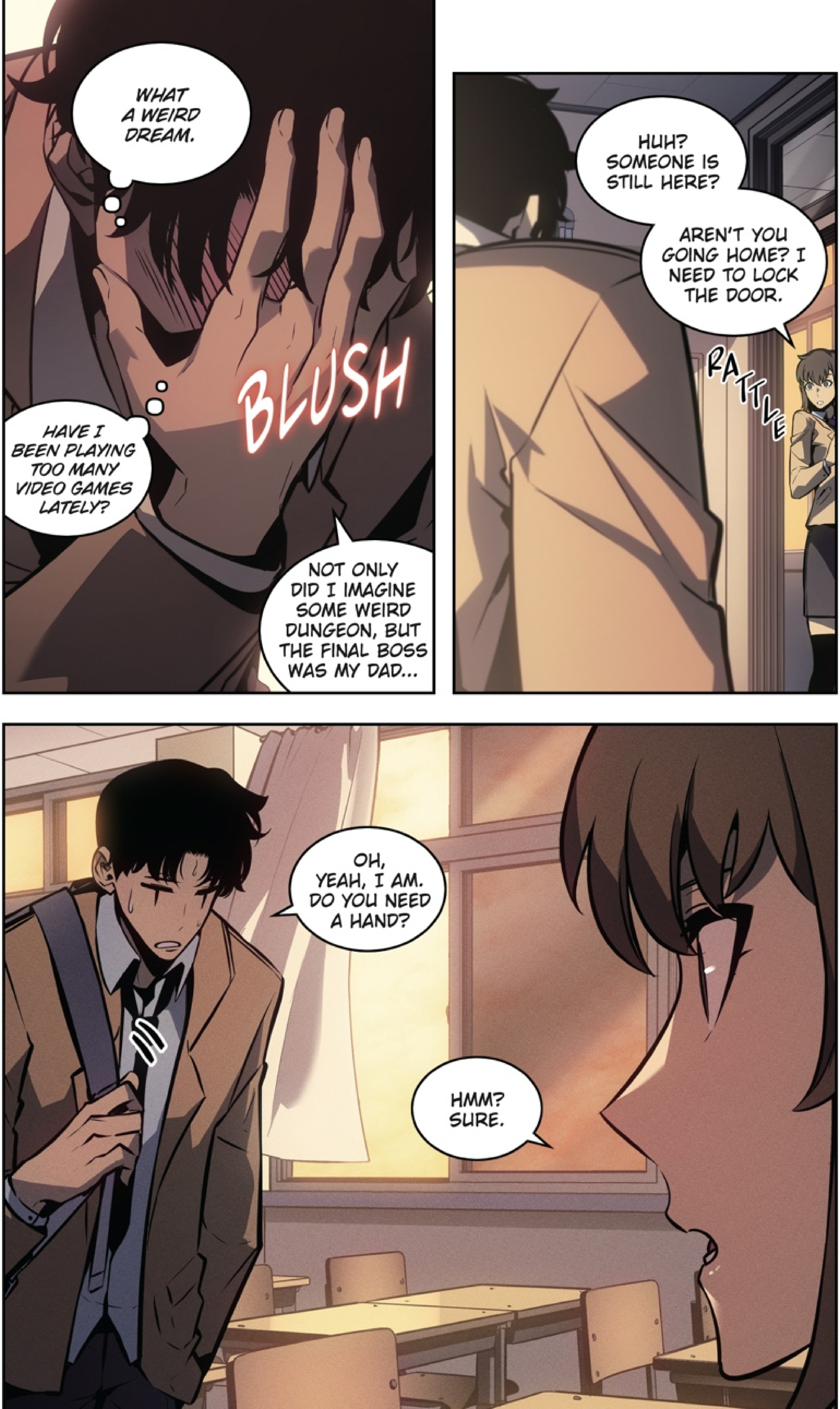
I WISH...

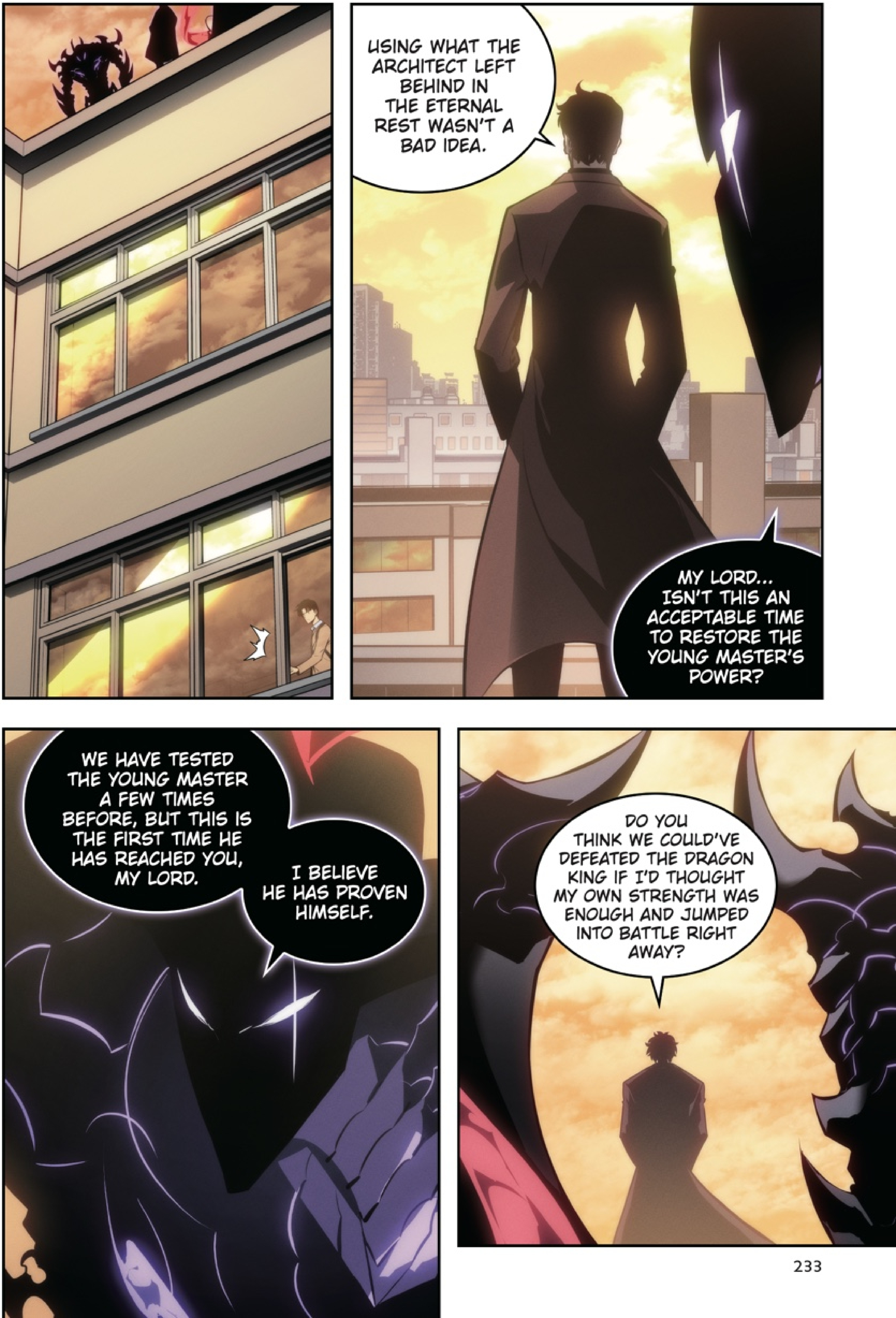
...I WAS AS POWERFUL AS HIM!

WHISH
TUP
RUFFLE
DID YOU HAVE FUN WITH THIS GAME?
"GAME"...?
YOU DID A GREAT JOB.
THIS VOICE IS...

...DAD?
PUSH
BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT A WAYS TO GO.

GAH!


WHAT A WEIRD DREAM.
HAVE I BEEN PLAYING TOO MANY VIDEO GAMES LATELY?
BLUSH
NOT ONLY DID I IMAGINE SOME WEIRD DUNGEON, BUT THE FINAL BOSS WAS MY DAD...
HUH? SOMEONE IS STILL HERE?
AREN'T YOU GOING HOME? I NEED TO LOCK THE DOOR.
RATTLE
OH, YEAH, I AM. DO YOU NEED A HAND?
HMM? SURE.


USING WHAT THE ARCHITECT LEFT BEHIND IN THE ETERNAL REST WASN'T A BAD IDEA.
MY LORD... ISN'T THIS AN ACCEPTABLE TIME TO RESTORE THE YOUNG MASTER'S POWER?
WE HAVE TESTED THE YOUNG MASTER A FEW TIMES BEFORE, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE HAS REACHED YOU, MY LORD.
I BELIEVE HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF.
DO YOU THINK WE COULD'VE DEFEATED THE DRAGON KING IF I'D THOUGHT MY OWN STRENGTH WAS ENOUGH AND JUMPED INTO BATTLE RIGHT AWAY?

HE NEEDS TO LEARN THAT RETREATING FROM A SITUATION WHENEVER VICTORY ISN'T ASSURED IS ALSO A VIABLE TACTIC.
RUSHING THOUGHTLESSLY INTO BATTLE...
...IS JUST RECKLESS AND FOOLISH.
NOT YET.
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY.
I'M SURE SOOHO WILL SOON FIGURE OUT...
...HOW TO USE HIS POWER ACCORDING TO THE SITUATION.
HE WON'T REMEMBER THIS...
...BUT EVEN SO, SOOHO...
...WILL OPEN THE GATE AGAIN AND AGAIN TO FACE THE CHALLENGE HEAD-ON...

YOUNG MASTER...
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT THING TO TAKE CARE OF TODAY, BUT...
...MAYBE I'LL TAKE THE FAMILY OUT FOR DINNER AFTER.

In other news...
Dongsuk and Dongsoo Hwang, the swindler brothers who swept the nation, were arrested today...
It took fifty-two vehicles and around eight hundred firefighters to successfully contain the blaze.
—We go live on the scene for the next report.
A huge wildfire threatened to spread into a nearby residential area.

SHF
YIKES, THAT'S COLD!
GOOD JOB.
THANK YOU.
CAPTAIN SUNG IS AS COOL AS ALWAYS.
IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE THE FIRE WENT OUT—I CAN'T BELIEVE HE STILL HAS ENERGY.
SOMEDAY I'LL BE JUST LIKE...!
?
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE SKY THERE.
IT'S PROBABLY A PLANE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
YES, I'M FINE. SO WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
WE WERE SAYING THAT WE NEED TO DECIDE ON THE TITLE OF THE NEW VR GAME THAT WE'RE RELEASING SOON.
SIR, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME...?
EVERYONE !!!

BURST
MY WIFE IS PREGNANT!
IT'S BEEN SIX WEEKS!!
CONGRATU-LATIONS, CHAIRMAN YOO!
CONGRATS, SIR!
OUR CEO WILL BE A FATHER SOON!
LET'S CALL THE NEW GAME BEAUTIFUL WORLD!
PARDON, SIR?
DOESN'T THAT SUIT A VIRTUAL REALITY GAME PERFECTLY?
SIR, PLEASE! I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER!
THE FATE OF OUR COMPANY RESTS ON THIS GAME!
SURELY THAT WAS A JOKE, RIGHT?!
YOU WENT TOO FAR, SIR!

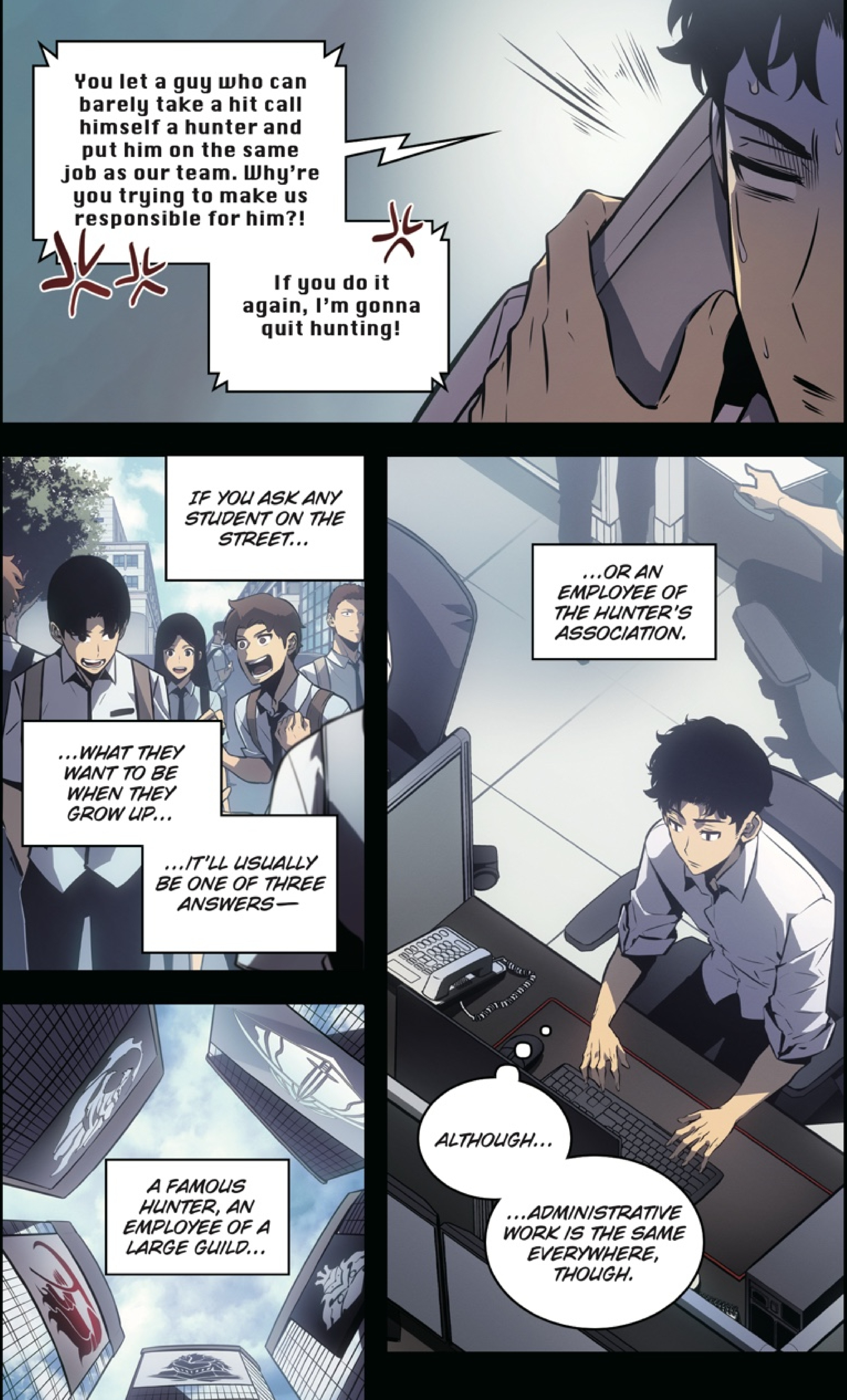
DO I SUCK AT NAMING THINGS...?
MAYBE I SHOULD ASK THE BOSS WHAT TO NAME THE BABY?
BUT WHY DO I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT HE ISN'T GOOD AT NAMING THINGS EITHER...?
ANYWAY, YOU GUYS DON'T NEED TO WORRY SINCE WE'VE SECURED AN INVESTOR.
AN INVESTOR? WHO?
IT'S NONE OTHER THAN...
...JONGIN CHOI! THE INDUSTRY LEGEND!
WAAAH!
IS THAT FOR REAL, SIR?!

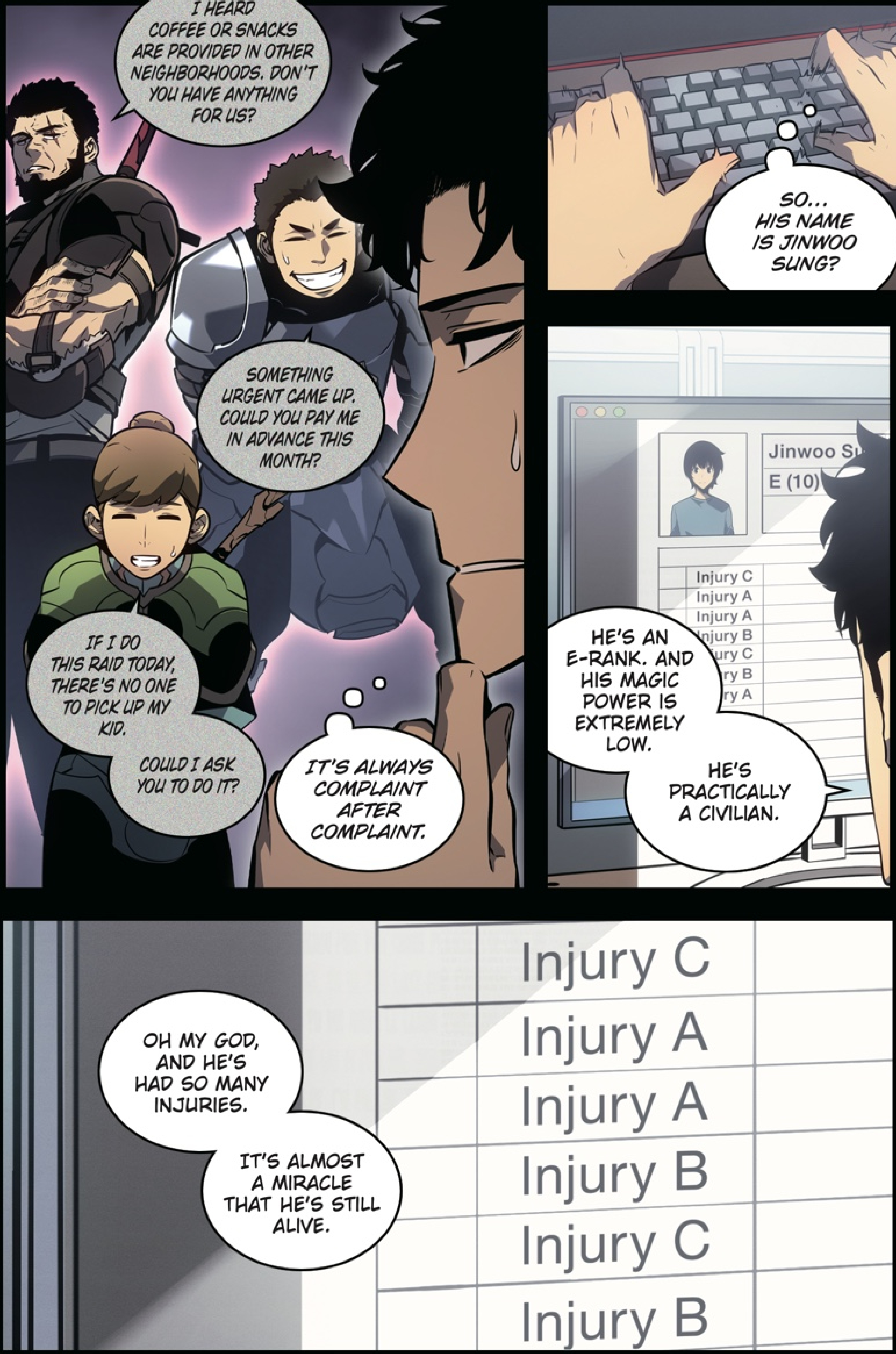
Chairman Jinho Yoo
of Ahjin Software
The success story of a young entrepreneur
who rejected his family business!
ARE THERE ANY OTHER ARTICLES?
NO, SIR. BUT THERE WILL BE MORE ARTICLES ABOUT HIM SOON.
TO THINK HE'D TURN DOWN THE POSITION I MADE FOR HIM AND START UP A GAME STUDIO OF ALL THINGS...
TSK, TSK.
I WOULD LIKE TO MEET MY GRANDCHILD SOON.

VWOOM

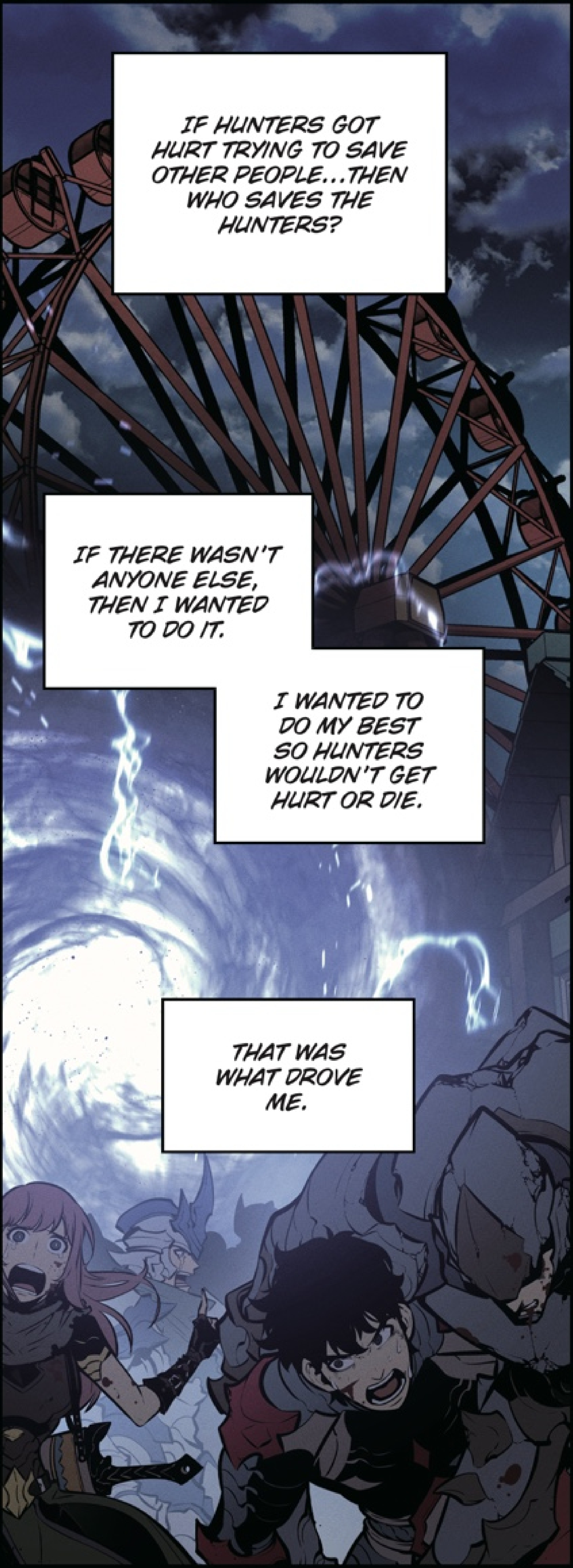
GATES.
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THEM.
THIS LED TO A WIDESPREAD FEAR AROUND THESE PHENOMENA...
...AND MANY PEOPLE PRAY THAT ONE NEVER APPEARS NEAR THEM.
BUT THERE WERE SOME WHO CONFRONTED THEIR FEAR AND VENTURED INSIDE.
WE REFER TO THEM AS HUNTERS.

BEEP
BEEP
HELLO, THIS IS THE SUPPORT DEPARTMENT.
I told you not to send the Sung kid! Why won't you listen to me?!
SHOUT
I AM SO SORRY. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A MISCOMMUNICATION WHEN WE ORGANIZED THE RAID.
COULD YOU EXPLAIN THE ISSUE TO ME?
What's there to explain?! I don't want to have to clean up a corpse!


You let a guy who can barely take a hit call himself a hunter and put him on the same job as our team. Why're you trying to make us responsible for him?!
If you do it again, I'm gonna quit hunting!
IF YOU ASK ANY STUDENT ON THE STREET...
...WHAT THEY WANT TO BE WHEN THEY GROW UP...
...IT'LL USUALLY BE ONE OF THREE ANSWERS—
A FAMOUS HUNTER, AN EMPLOYEE OF A LARGE GUILD...
...OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION.
ALTHOUGH...
...ADMINISTRATIVE WORK IS THE SAME EVERYWHERE, THOUGH.

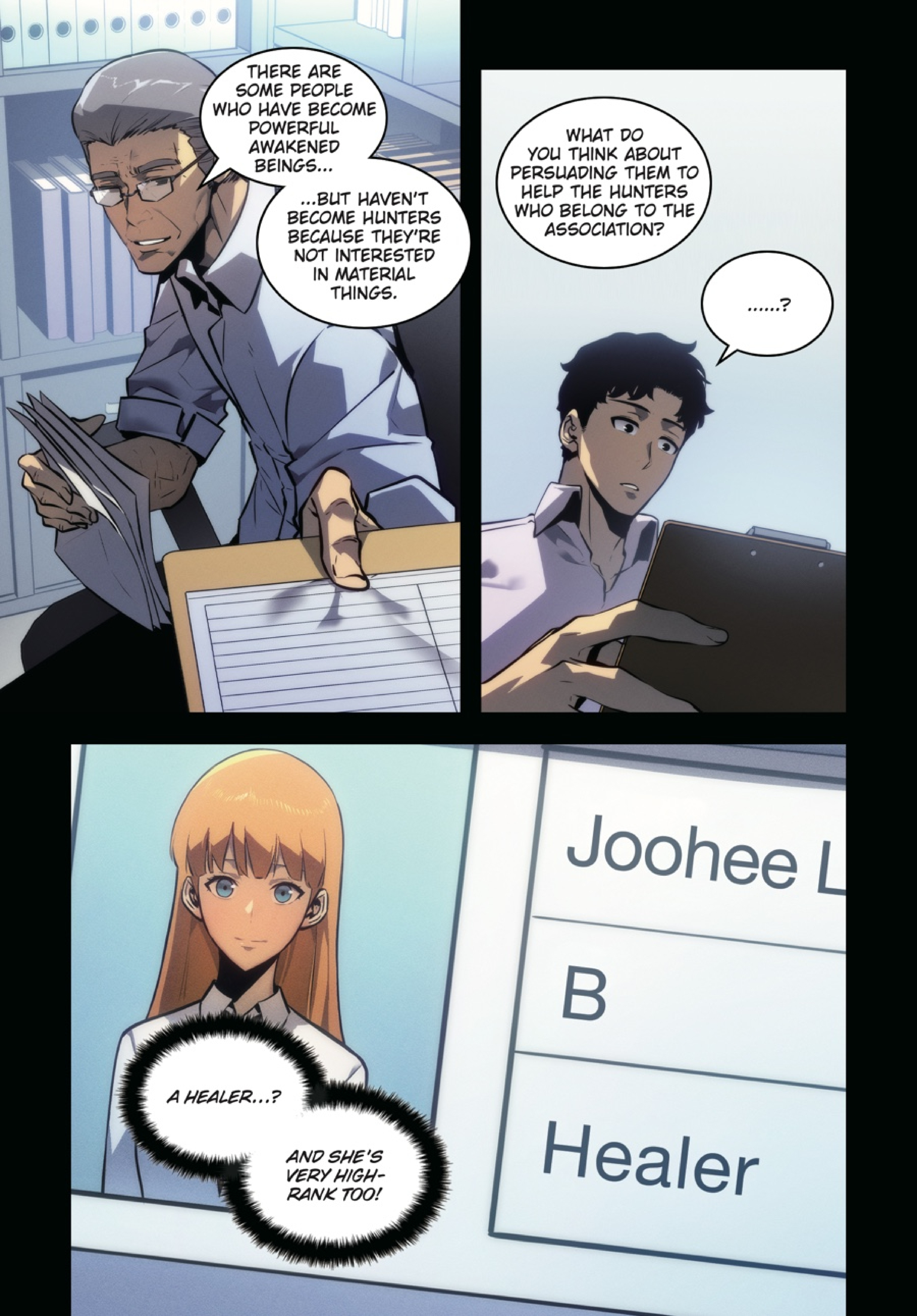

I HEARD COFFEE OR SNACKS ARE PROVIDED IN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS. DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING FOR US?
SOMETHING URGENT CAME UP. COULD YOU PAY ME IN ADVANCE THIS MONTH?
IF I DO THIS RAID TODAY, THERE'S NO ONE TO PICK UP MY KID.
COULD I ASK YOU TO DO IT?
IT'S ALWAYS COMPLAINT AFTER COMPLAINT.
SO... HIS NAME IS JINWOO SUNG?
E (10)
Injury C
Injury A
Injury A
HE'S AN E-RANK. AND HIS MAGIC POWER IS EXTREMELY LOW.
HE'S PRACTICALLY A CIVILIAN.
Injury C
Injury A
Injury A
Injury B
Injury C
Injury B
OH MY GOD, AND HE'S HAD SO MANY INJURIES.
IT'S ALMOST A MIRACLE THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE.

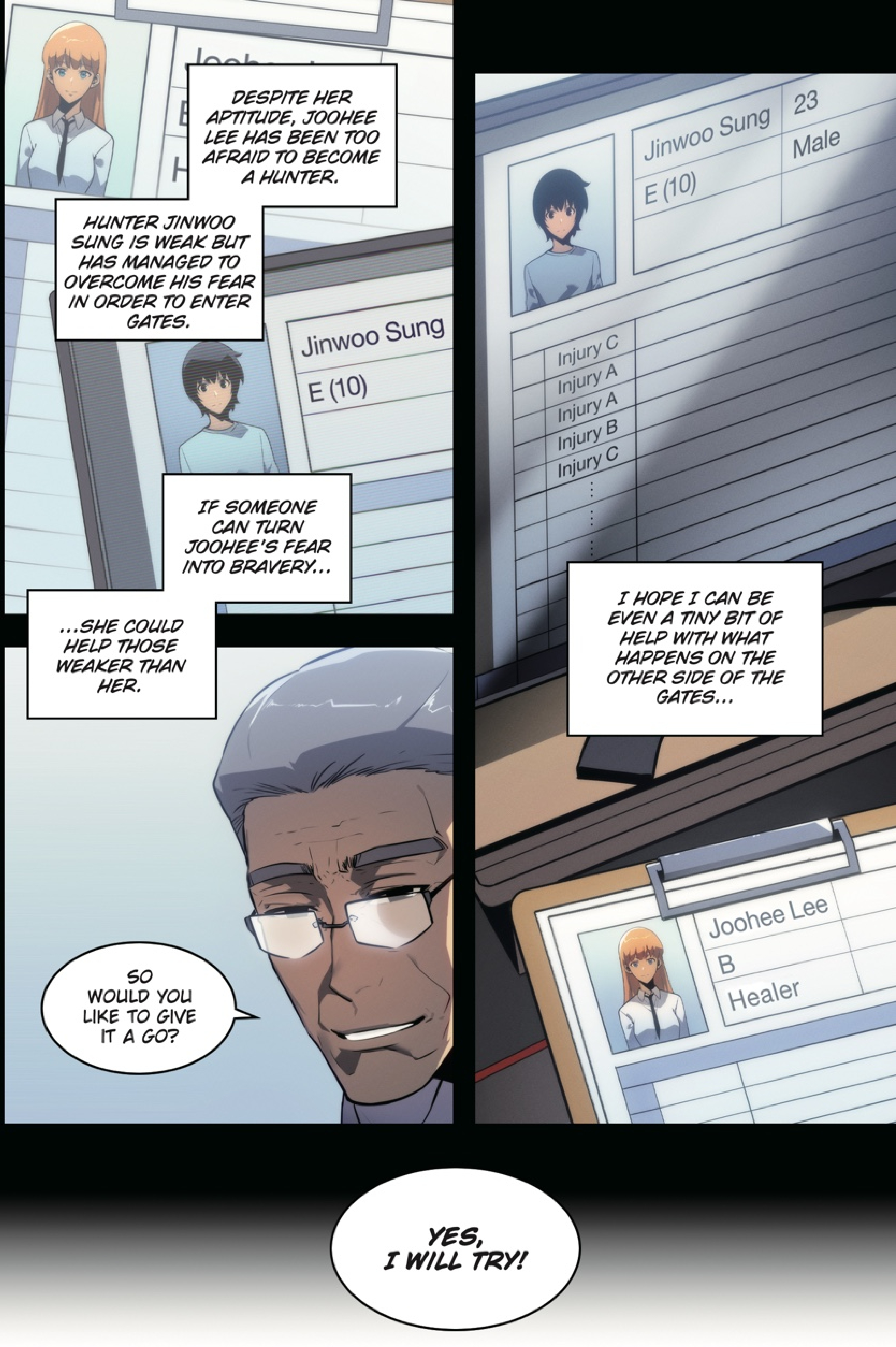
WHY DOES HE INSIST ON STAYING A HUNTER? IS THERE A SPECIAL REASON?
AH... HIS MOTHER IS IN THE ICU WITH ETERNAL SLEEP DISEASE, AND HIS SISTER IS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL...
NO WONDER...
HE'S TWENTY-THREE...SIX YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME...
SIR, SHOULD WE HAVE A SERIOUS CONVERSATION WITH HUNTER SUNG ABOUT QUITTING?
WE'VE TRIED.
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WORK FOR THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION?
ME?
BECAUSE...OF SOMETHING I SAW ON THE NEWS WHEN I WAS A KID.
IT WAS ABOUT A HUNTER WHO GOT STUCK IN A GATE WHILE TRYING TO SAVE OTHER HUNTERS...
AT FIRST, IT WAS SIMPLY CURIOSITY.

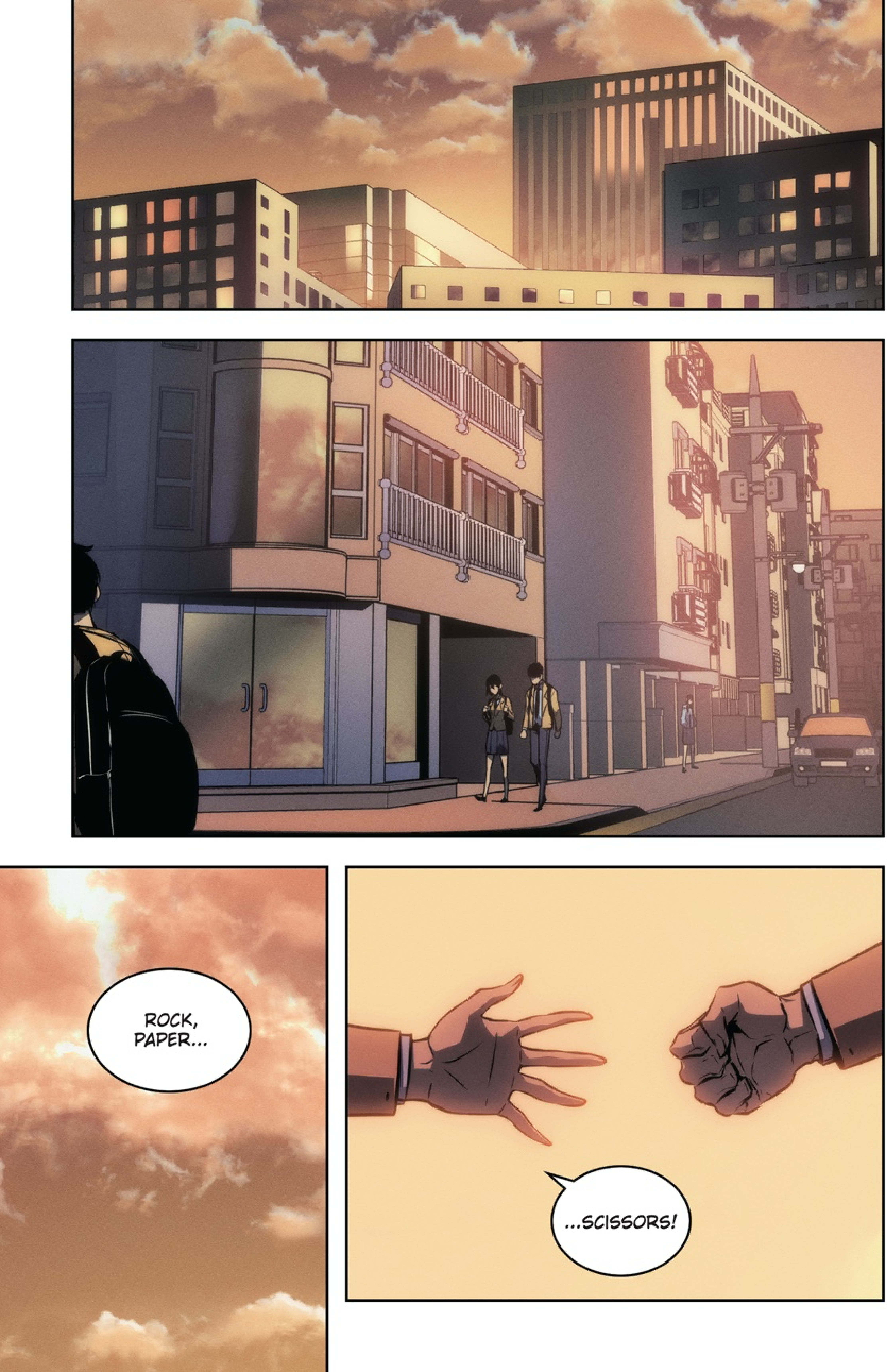

IF HUNTERS GOT HURT TRYING TO SAVE OTHER PEOPLE...THEN WHO SAVES THE HUNTERS?
IF THERE WASN'T ANYONE ELSE, THEN I WANTED TO DO IT.
I WANTED TO DO MY BEST SO HUNTERS WOULDN'T GET HURT OR DIE.
THAT WAS WHAT DROVE ME.

DO YOU WANT HUNTER SUNG TO QUIT, OR DO YOU WANT TO HELP HIM?
...HA-HA. WHAT A QUESTION...
I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN REALLY DO TO HELP HIM EXCEPT ASK HIM TO QUIT.

AND WHAT IF THERE IS?
SHF
PARDON?


THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE BECOME POWERFUL AWAKENED BEINGS...
...BUT HAVEN'T BECOME HUNTERS BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN MATERIAL THINGS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PERSUADING THEM TO HELP THE HUNTERS WHO BELONG TO THE ASSOCIATION?
......?
Joohee L
B
Healer
A HEALER...?
AND SHE'S VERY HIGH-RANK TOO!

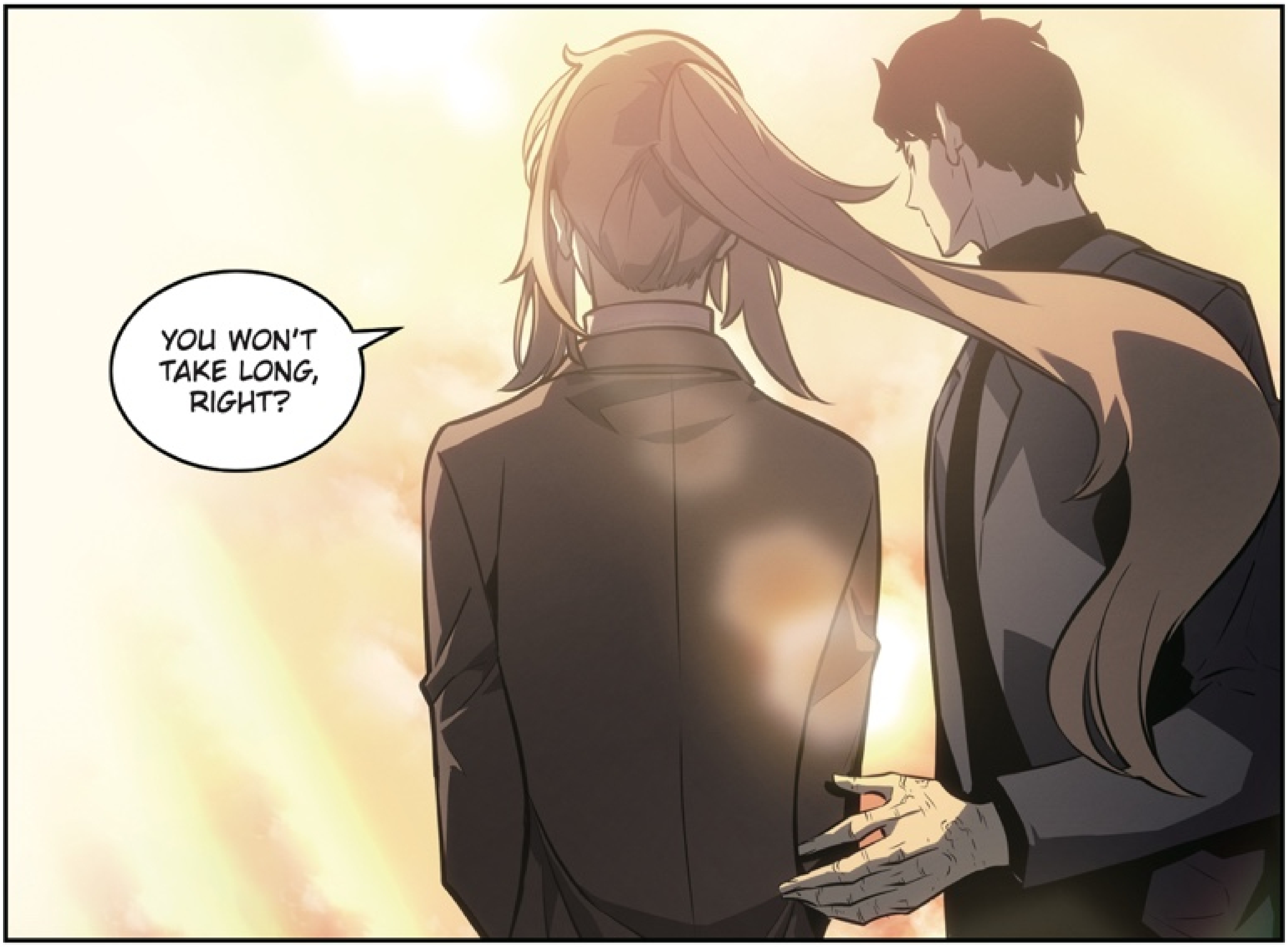

DESPITE HER APTITUDE, JOOHEE LEE HAS BEEN TOO AFRAID TO BECOME A HUNTER.
HUNTER JINWOO SUNG IS WEAK BUT HAS MANAGED TO OVERCOME HIS FEAR IN ORDER TO ENTER GATES.
Jinwoo Sung
E (10)
IF SOMEONE CAN TURN JOOHEE'S FEAR INTO BRAVERY...
...SHE COULD HELP THOSE WEAKER THAN HER.
SO WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE IT A GO?
Jinwoo Sung
23
Male
E (10)
Injury C
Injury A
Injury A
Injury B
Injury C
I HOPE I CAN BE EVEN A TINY BIT OF HELP WITH WHAT HAPPENS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATES...
Joohee Lee
B
Healer
YES, I WILL TRY!


ROCK, PAPER...
...SCISSORS!

YAY! YOU REALLY SUCK AT ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS, HUH?
HERE. CARRY MY BAG!
YEAH, YEAH.
?
WHAT'S UP? IS THERE SOMETHING IN THE SKY?
NOPE, NOTHING.

WHOOSH

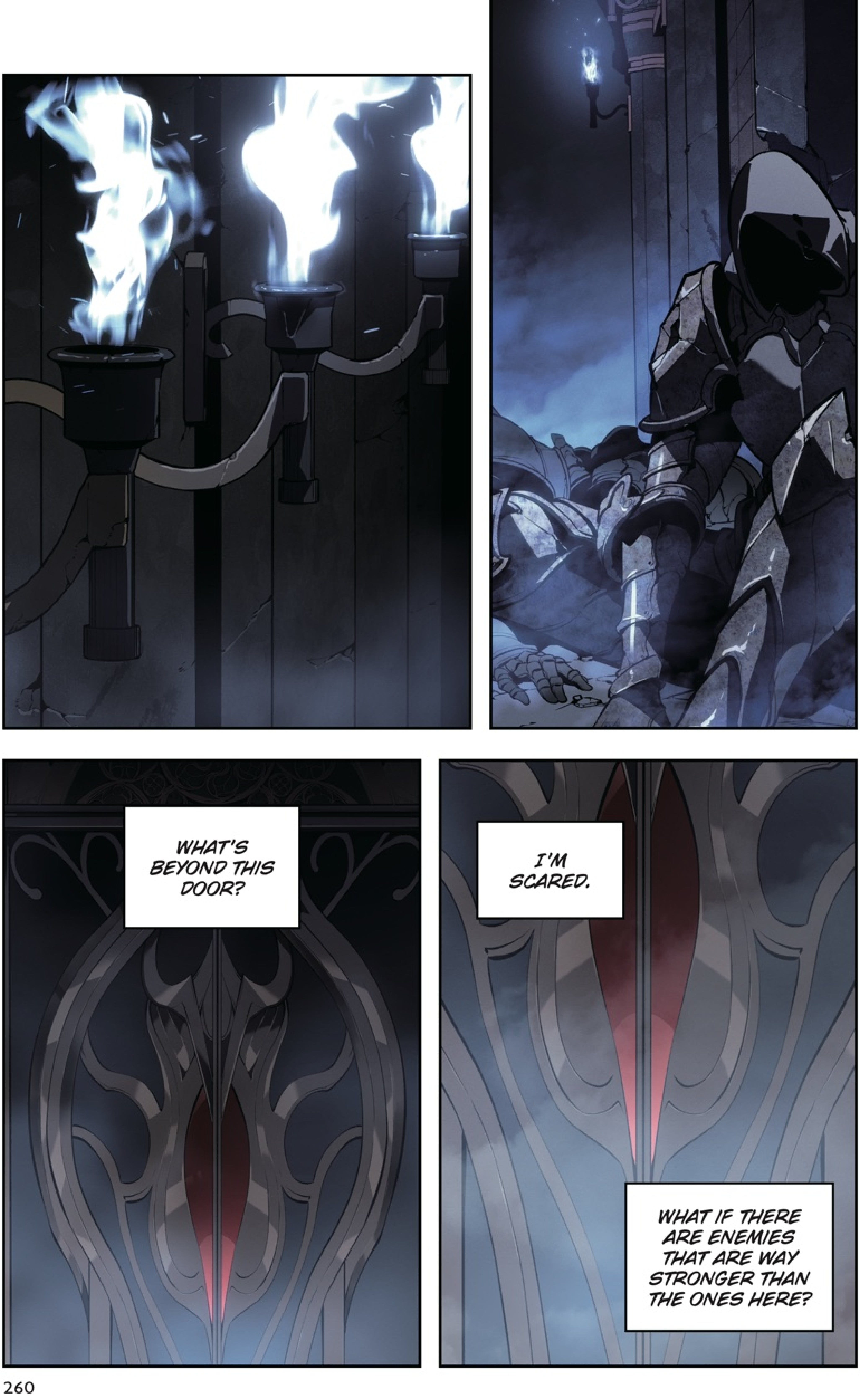
THIS IS A SIGHT I HAVEN'T SEEN IN A WHILE.
DARLING?
FOR OUR SIXTEENTH WEDDING ANNIVER-SARY.
YOU SHOULD HEAD HOME FIRST, HON.
KISS
I'LL BE BACK SOON.


YOU WON'T TAKE LONG, RIGHT?

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

VWOOOOM
SHF

SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT A POWERFUL BEING CAN ATTRACT HORRIFYING THINGS FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.
FSHH
PHEW...
ARISE.

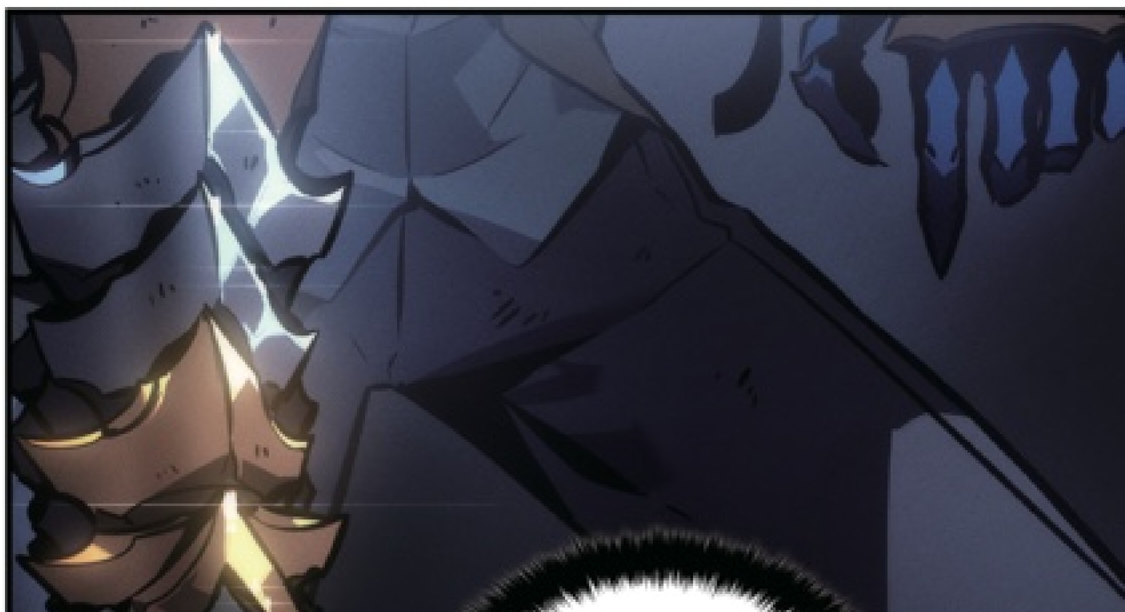

WHAT'S BEYOND THIS DOOR?
I'M SCARED.
WHAT IF THERE ARE ENEMIES THAT ARE WAY STRONGER THAN THE ONES HERE?

WILL I DIE...
HUFF!
HUFF!
...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
THE THING IS, I'LL NEVER FIND OUT IF I DON'T OPEN THE DOOR.
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND IT—
CREAK

DAMN IT...
DID I DIE AGAIN?
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE I BEEN HERE?
THIS IS HARD.
I WANNA GO BACK HOME.

ONLY ONE CHANCE LEFT...

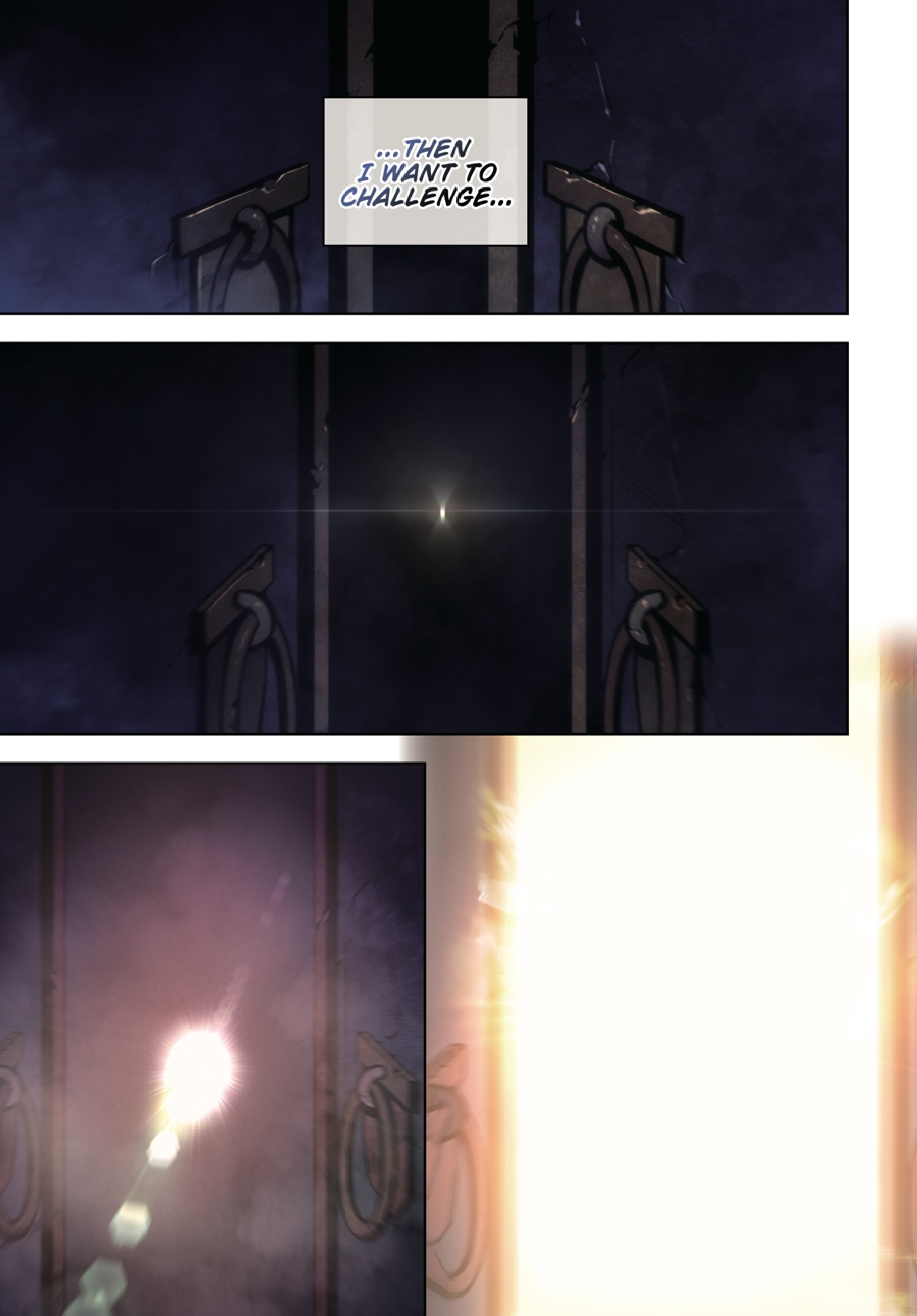
A VOICE HAS BEEN YELLING AT ME FOR SOME TIME NOW...
TREMBLE
GET UP.
TREMBLE


I GOTTA RISE UP!

THIS MAY BE MY LAST CHANCE...

...BUT IF I DON'T WANT TO STAY AT THIS LEVEL...

...IF I CAN BECOME STRONGER...


...THEN I WANT TO CHALLENGE...

...WHATEVER LIES BEYOND THIS DOOR.

Hello, everyone.
This is DISCIPLES.

I began these side stories with the respected artist and my very own teacher, Sungrak Jang, in mind. And now, the episodes have finally come to an end.

We were able to complete these *Solo Leveling* stories not through our abilities but because of the love and support from all of the readers.

To Sungrak Jang, our pillar and the one who made us who we are today—we love you and still miss you so much. Thank you for everything.

We would also like to thank Chugong for writing such an amazing novel, as well as everyone on the *Solo Leveling* team who was on this journey with me.

—DISCIPLES(REDICE STUDIO)

Thank you so much for loving
Solo Leveling until the end.

Solo Leveling

IZE PRESS
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In a world of gates, monsters, and hunters galore, Sooho Sung is…well, he's just an ordinary college student. Sure, his parents went missing right before the gates started appearing three years ago, and he occasionally had a weird dream where he could beat up monsters and level up like a video game, but other than that? There's absolutely nothing special about him. So when a sudden monster outbreak occurs on his campus, he must fight back every instinct screaming at him to run away as he takes a page out of his dad's book and rushes to save his classmate. The chances of making it alive are looking bleak, until—PING!
[Congratulations on becoming a Player.]
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SOLO LEVELING

15

DISCIPLES
(REDICE STUDIO)

ORIGINAL STORY BY
CHUGONG

ADAPTED BY
h-goon

Translation: Hye Young Im ◆ Rewrite: J. Torres ◆ Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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